

Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) – Aged Information for COFA Citizens

If you are over 65 and a COFA citizen, you are now eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – Aged* if you qualify based on financial need. Please read the information below to learn more about what SSI is and how you can apply. *COFA migrants may also be eligible for other Social Security benefits including SSI – Disability, SSDI and Social Security Retirement.

What is SSI Assistance?

Supplemental Security Income is a program to provide a minimum income for adults aged 65 and over who have limited income and assets. An individual receiving SSI can potentially earn up to \$967 a month and a couple \$1,450 if married (amounts are current for 2025).

Who is eligible for SSI?

COFA citizens became eligible for SSI in March of 2024. Even if you were rejected in the past because of your citizenship status, you are now eligible.

To be eligible you must also:

- Be at least 65 years of age
- Have less than \$2,000 in bank accounts for individuals filing or \$3,000 for a couple
- Be living within the United States

Preparing to Apply

To apply you should prepare a set of documents before calling the Social Security Administration office. The officials will ask you to prove your eligibility, so ensure that you have access to information/documents on hand, including, but not limited to:

- Social Security Card or number
- Your I-94 form and current passport
- Proof of age (birth certificate)
- Proof of limited assets (bank statements)
- Proof of any other income that you receive including retirement benefits in any country

- Your spouse's social security number if you were or are married and your spouse ever lived and worked in the United States. This is needed even if your spouse is deceased.

Once you have gathered the documents and information, call your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office:

Honolulu: (855) 572-4879

Kapolei (serving West Oahu): (855) 572-4866

Maui: (855) 572-4863

Big Island: 1-855-572-4860

Kauai: (855) 572-4842

You can also call the national SSA number at 1-800-772-1213 but wait times are generally much longer.

The Process of Applying: What to Say on the Phone and What to Expect

- When you get on the phone with the Social Security Administration office, request an interpreter if you need one.
- Next, ask for an application for “SSI Aged”
- The administrator will then ask for information like that listed above regarding your age, citizenship, income, etc.
- The administrator may ask you if you are married or were married. If you are or were married, they will ask for your spouse’s social security number so they can see if you are eligible for retirement benefits through your spouse’s social security account. If your spouse never worked or lived in the United States, you can explain that. If you are no longer living with your spouse, you should also share this.
- A social security administrator may call you back the same day to request more information. They will ask you about any other forms of income you have or the amount in your bank account or any other assets.
- They will also ask if you pay rent to a landlord or otherwise help another person with rent payments or if anyone else in your home receives SNAP. People who do not pay rent may get a smaller SSI benefit. If you start paying rent in the future, you can let the Social Security Administration know.
- You will be asked to bring documents to your local social security office. In this case, you may be asked to come into your local Social Security Office. The Social Security Administration usually requires an appointment to assist you at its office.

Hawaii Social Security Administration office locations:

Honolulu: 300 Ala Moana Blvd Rm 1114, Honolulu, HI 96850

Kapolei: 970 Manawai St, Kapolei, HI 96707

Maui: 2200 Main St, Wailuku, HI 96793

Hawaii County: 111 E Puainako St, Hilo, HI 96720

Kauai: 4334 Rice St Ste 105, Lihue, HI 96766