

Social Security Administration
Supplemental Security Income
Important Information

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Claim Number: 123-45-6789

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We are writing to tell you some important information about the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. We have tried to contact you but have not heard from you. Due to a change in the law, you may be eligible to receive benefits for an additional period of time.

You May be Eligible for Additional SSI Benefits

Congress passed a law that affects SSI eligibility for aliens whose SSI stopped due to the expiration of their seven-year period of eligibility. Our records show that this law may apply to you.

The law is known as "The SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act." This law allows certain aliens to receive SSI for:

- an additional two-year period beginning October 1, 2008, and
- up to three years during October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2011, if they have an application for naturalization pending or are waiting to take the oath of citizenship.

Who Qualifies for Additional Benefits

To qualify for the benefit extension, you must have been eligible to receive SSI for up to seven years and the seven-year period has ended.

You must also meet one of the following requirements:

- you are a Cuban or Haitian entrant as defined in the Refugee Education and Assistance Act of 1980; or
- your deportation has been withheld under Sections 241(b)(3) or 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; or
- you have been a Lawful Permanent Resident for less than six years and have maintained such status in good standing; or
- you have applied to be a Lawful Permanent Resident within four years from the date you began receiving SSI; or

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- you are under age 18; or
- you are age 70 or older; or
- you have an application for naturalization pending with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or you are waiting to take the oath of citizenship.

In addition, unless you are awaiting naturalization or are under age 18, you must give us a signed declaration that shows you have made a good faith effort to pursue U.S. citizenship. You also must meet all other applicable SSI eligibility requirements, including SSI income and resource limits.

What You Need to Do to Get the Benefit Extension

If your SSI benefits have stopped due to the expiration of the seven-year period and you think you may be eligible for this benefit extension, please call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). You may also call or write your local Social Security office. The phone number and address are shown at the top of this letter. We would be happy to schedule an appointment to speak with you. When you call or come in, please bring your immigration documents or naturalization certificate with you, along with this letter.

To learn more about SSI benefits for non-citizens, please call the Social Security Administration's toll free number or visit our websites at www.socialsecurity.gov and www.socialsecurity.gov/issif/spotlights/spot-non-citizens.htm.

James F. Martin
Regional Commissioner