

SSI's Resource Rules

At-A-Glance



Resources:

Under SSI rules, this includes cash, other liquid assets, or real or personal property that an individual owns and could convert to cash that can be used to provide for food or shelter.

- ◆ Before an asset will be considered a resource an individual must have an ownership interest in property; a legal right of access to the property; and the legal ability to use the property for personal support and maintenance.
- ◆ The resource is counted or excluded “as of the first moment of the month.”
- ◆ The general rule is that an item received in a month is income and, unless spent, becomes a resource in the following month.
- ◆ The SSI program's general resource limit in 2012 is \$2,000 for an individual, \$3,000 for an eligible couple.

Liquid Resources:

Under SSI rules, this includes cash or other property that can be converted to cash within 20 working days. Some types of liquid resources include stocks, bonds, promissory notes, mortgages, and bank accounts.

Non-Liquid Resources:

Property that is not cash and which cannot be converted to cash within 20 working days. Except for automobiles, the equity value of the non-liquid resource is countable. Some types of non-liquid resources are automobiles, trucks, tractors, boats, machinery, livestock, buildings and land.

Exclusions from Resources:

Resources that are not counted for purposes of SSI's \$2,000 or \$3,000 limits. Some of these are the residential home regardless of value, household goods and personal effects, and the total value of an automobile if necessary for transportation. See Chapter 2 of the *Benefits Management for Working People With Disabilities* manual for an exhaustive list of exclusions.

Trusts Can be Used to Exclude Cash Resources if Certain Conditions are Met:

- ◆ Neither the principal nor the trust income can be available to the SSI recipient to meet needs for food and shelter.
- ◆ The SSI recipient should not be the trustee.
- ◆ Trusts must be carefully drafted to comply with the SSI and Medicaid laws.