

## Address

Dear [Benefit Enrollment Center]:

We're pleased to share information about the Social Security Administration's (SSA) national campaign to help people facing barriers access its programs and services.

The campaign engages community-based organizations and advocacy groups that can help people apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a needs-based program that pays monthly cash benefits to people who are age 65 and older, or people with disabilities, regardless of age.

Organizations and advocacy groups interested in helping people apply for SSI benefits can access new SSA resources to:

- complete an application for SSI;
- provide SSA information sufficient to establish a lead or protective filing that protects the
  applicant against a potential loss in benefits if an application cannot be immediately secured;
  and/or
- refer potential applicants to SSA for assistance.

For those organizations and advocacy groups that agree to complete an application, SSA will provide training, conducted virtually, via Microsoft Teams. The training includes an overview of the SSI application process, and step-by-step instructions on how to complete the application for SSI and relevant disability-related forms. When training is completed, organizations and advocacy groups will receive a local SSA field office contact who will serve as their liaison.

<u>with your current arrangements.</u> If you do not have an existing relationship with SSA or wish to engage with SSA in a different way, and are interested in this campaign, we encourage you to contact the <u>Regional Communications Director</u> (RCD) for your state to learn more. Your RCD is SSA's ombudsman for your state and can help resolve most SSA-related issues, especially if you have encountered any challenges contacting your local SSA office.

Thank you for considering this exciting new opportunity to help reduce barriers to accessing SSA's programs and services. We also encourage you to share this information through your networks.

Ramsey Alwin President & CEO National Council on Aging

Jeffrey Buckner Associate Commissioner Office of Strategic and Digital Communications Social Security Administration