

How to Qualify for Social Security Benefits After an Organ Transplant

If you have had an organ transplant you are medically qualified for up to a year of disability benefits. Receiving disability payments will allow you to have time to heal from the transplant and undergo the monitoring and rehabilitation necessary for you to regain your health.

The Social Security disability benefits that you receive can help pay for housing and other living expenses while you recover and also can be used to help cover other costs that arise as a result of the transplant. If you have undergone any of these transplant procedures, you are automatically qualified for Social Security disability payments although you still have to apply in order to receive Social Security disability benefits:

- [Bone marrow transplant](#)
- [Heart transplant](#)
- [Kidney transplant](#)
- [Liver transplant](#)
- [Stem cell transplant](#)
- Other medical conditions that can require an organ transplant like leukemia or lymphoma also may qualify for benefits. The benefit period may vary based on your particular situation. Some conditions, like a lung transplant due to lung cancer, may qualify you because you could be out of work for an extended amount of time.

Donors Do Not Automatically Get Social Security Disability

It's important to note that people who donate organs aren't automatically qualified for Social Security payments. They can apply for benefits if they meet one of the qualifications described in the SSA's "[Blue Book](#)" but they are not guaranteed to qualify. Only the transplant recipient is automatically qualified to receive payments.

Social Security Disability Before a Transplant

You may qualify for Social Security disability payments as soon as you are put on the transplant list. Because your medical condition is serious enough to require a transplant it's assumed that you are not able to work and need assistance. You should apply for Social Security benefits as soon as you are put on the transplant list and [your doctors](#) can provide the documentation necessary for your claim to be approved.

Most of the time claims takes three to five months to process. However, because of the urgent nature of medical conditions that are caused by organ failure you may be able to get your claim expedited and can get your benefits started in a matter of weeks.

Start Your Application Today

Don't wait to get started on your application for Social Security assistance. You can apply online at the [SSA's website](#) or you can call 1-800-772-1213 to schedule an appointment to apply in person at your [local Social Security office](#). If you are applying in person be sure to bring copies of all of your medical records and medical documentation with you because those will need to be included with your application. If you are applying online, it is important to have your records and documentation and you will need to submit them eventually but you can start the application process right now and submit your documentation at a later date.

Resources:

- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/7.00-HemicandLymphatic-Adult.htm#7_17
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/4.00-Cardiovascular-Adult.htm#4_09
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/6.00-Genitourinary-Adult.htm#6_04
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/5.00-Digestive-Adult.htm#5_09
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/7.00-HemicandLymphatic-Adult.htm#7_17
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-blue-book>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/blog/role-doctor-plays-disability-application-process>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>