

## Mid-Year Mailer Notice for all SSI Aliens (3/3/11)

We are writing to tell you important information about your Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

### **SSI Rules for Non-Citizens**

SSI for non-citizens in certain alien categories may be limited to 7 years.

If your SSI benefits cease prior to September 30, 2011, you may still be eligible for benefits under the SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act (Public Law 110-328) if:

- you have applied for U.S. citizenship with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and your application is pending or has been approved, but you have not yet been sworn in as a U.S. citizen; or
- you sign a declaration under the penalty of perjury stating that you have made or are making an effort to become a U.S. citizen, and if you do not qualify for citizenship at this time, that you plan to become a U.S. citizen if and when the law allows.

Eligibility under the SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act will expire on September 30, 2011.

If you have applied for citizenship, please visit your local Social Security office. Bring with you the DHS Form I-797 that proves your application for citizenship is pending. If you wish to make a declaration that you are making an effort to become a U.S. citizen, please visit your local Social Security office.

### **U.S. Citizens Are Not Subject to the 7-Year Rule or the Extension**

In general, a person who meets all of the SSI eligibility rules can get SSI benefits with no time limit, if he or she becomes a U.S. citizen. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in DHS is the U.S. Government agency that decides who can become a U.S. citizen.

### **USCIS Expedited Processing and Fee Waivers**

If you have a pending application for naturalization (Form N-400) or adjustment of status (Form I-485), you (or your representative) may request expedited processing from USCIS. Be sure to tell USCIS that you are an SSI recipient. You may also apply for a waiver of the application fee by contacting USCIS. If you are eligible for naturalization or adjustment of status but have not filed an application with USCIS, we encourage you to do so.

## **Other Categories of Eligible Aliens**

An alien who is getting SSI under the time-limited rules may continue getting SSI after the end of the time-limited period, even if he or she does not become a U.S. citizen, if the alien:

- is a lawfully admitted permanent resident who can be credited with at least 40 qualifying quarters of work (certain restrictions may apply); or
- was lawfully residing in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 and is blind or disabled at any age; or
- is lawfully residing in the U.S. and was receiving SSI on August 22, 1996; or
- is an honorably discharged veteran or current active duty member of the U.S. armed forces who meets certain rules; or
- is a spouse or dependent child of a veteran or active duty member of the U.S. armed forces who meets certain rules.

## **Contact SSA Right Away**

Let us know right away if you become a U.S. citizen, if your immigration status changes, or if you could meet one of the other categories of eligible aliens.

## **Where to Find More Information**

- To request expedited processing of your application for naturalization or adjustment of status, or to request a fee waiver, please call the USCIS toll free number at 1-800-375-5283 (wait for the SSI option on the main menu). If you are deaf or hearing impaired, call their TTY number at 1-800-767-1833. You also can contact your local USCIS office in person or in writing. If you (or your representative) have not yet filed an application for naturalization or adjustment of status and you are eligible to file, you can also apply for a fee waiver when you file the application.
- To learn more about fee waivers, how to become a U.S. citizen, how to apply for adjustment of status, or to become a lawful permanent resident, please visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).
- To learn more about SSI benefits for aliens, please call our toll free number at 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hearing impaired, call our TTY number at 1-800-325-0778. You also can visit any Social Security field office or visit our websites at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-non-citizens.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-non-citizens.htm).