

---

**NONFINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FACTORS**

---

**BLINDNESS AND DISABILITY**

---

**A. BACKGROUND**

Under the provisions of sections 1902(a)(10) and 1905(a) of the Social Security Act, individuals who meet certain income and resource requirements and other general eligibility requirements and who are disabled, as defined under the Social Security Act, are eligible for Medicaid. The law requires that the SSI definition of disability set forth in section 1614 of the Social Security Act must be satisfied, at a minimum, in order for an individual to be eligible for Medicaid based upon disability.

**B. DEFINITION OF  
DISABILITY  
(20 CFR 416.905)**

The law defines disability as the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. This means an individual unable to do his/her previous work or any other substantial gainful activity which exists in the national economy. In making this determination, an individual's residual functional capacity, age, education and work experience are considered.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193) changed the definition of childhood disability to specify:

1. An individual under the age of 18 shall be considered to be disabled under SSI if that child has a medically determinable physical or mental disability, which results in marked and severe functional limitation, and which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months, and
2. No individual under the age of 18 who engages in substantial gainful activity may be considered disabled.