DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR BIA STAFF, OST FIDUCIARY TRUST OFFICERS, TRIBAL BENEFIT PLANNERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND OUTREACH COORDINATORS WORKING WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES PROVIDING A FOUNDATION TO UNDERSTAND THE SSI PROGRAM AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES.
Social Security

- Benefits based on earnings
- Financed by wage contributions
- No income limit
- No resource limit
- Must meet work requirement
- Medicare

S.S.I.

- Benefits based on need
- Financed by General Revenues
- Limited income
- Limited resources
- No minimum work requirement
- Medicaid (Medi-Cal or Medicaid/Arizona)
Who Can Get SSI?

- Age 65 or older
- Blind at any age
- Disabled at any age
- Limited income
- Limited resources
SSI Eligibility Requirements

- Have Little or No Resources
- Be Disabled
- Have limited income
- Be a US Citizen
- Legal Resident
- Reside in the US
The Claims Resolution Act of 2010
SI 00830.852
(SI 00830.852A.2 in this section)

Hot Topic

The Land Buy Back Program under the Cobell Settlement

The funds received under this program are not income but rather of a conversion of a resources per SI 00815.200.

See SI 00830.852A.2 in this section
The Land Buy Back Program under the Cobell Settlement

For SSI, funds received from land sales are excluded from resource counting for a period of one year from the date of receipt. Funds retained longer than one year are countable as a resource.

Funds received under the Land Buy Back program do not impact Social Security retirement payments.
Individual Indian Money Accounts/IIM: Regular income and resources rules concerning restricted and unrestricted accounts

Should I report my IIM Account or any distributions made from it?
## Types of IIM ACCOUNTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restricted IIM Account</th>
<th>Unrestricted IIM Account</th>
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<td>Requires BIA authorization for the individual to make a withdrawal</td>
<td>Does not require BIA authorization for the individual to make a withdrawal</td>
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Example 1- Restricted Accounts

In March, Mr. Strong’s $2,200 annual individual Indian trust income payment is deposited as required by BIA, into his restricted IIM Account. The same month, his Title II check of $250 is also directly deposited into that account. Because Mr. Strong’s Title II check was available to him in March (though he opted to have it deposited into his restricted account), regular income rules require treating the $250 as unearned income for that month. If retained in the restricted account, the title II benefits are not a resource.

In April, the BIA releases $200 to Mr. Strong. $200 is counted as unearned income for the month of April since the non-excludable $200 is counted as unearned income for the month of April since the non-excludable $200 of the $2200 lease income was then available to him.
Examples show how regular income and resources apply to IIM Accounts

Example 2-Unrestricted Accounts

In May, a $150 per capita payment from locally managed tribal funds is deposited into Mr. Thornton’s unrestricted IIM account. Development reveals that these funds were not held in trust by the Secretary of Interior and, therefore, are not excluded from income and resources. The $150 counts as income to Mr. Thornton in May, and counts as a resource, to the extent retained, in June. In June, Mr. Thornton withdraws the money from his account. The $150 is a conversion of a resource in June, and is therefore not counted as income for that month.
Spotlight on Reporting Responsibilities

You move or change your address (COA)
persons moving into or out of your household
Your or your spouse’s or parent’s income/earnings change
You/your spouse’s or parent’s resources/things own change
You get help with living expenses or get income from friends/relatives
Your spouse/anyone in your household deceases
You get married, separated, divorced
You change your name
You become eligible for other benefits or payments
You enter or leave an institution (hospital, nursing home, prison or jail)
You leave the United States or return to the United States
A felony or warrant for violating a condition of parole or probation is issued for your arrest
There is a change in school attendance (if under age 22)
Your condition improves, if you get SSI because of a disability or blindness; and
You cannot keep an appointment with our office
When income is counted, SI 00810.030
What is income, SI 00810.005
What is not income, SI 00815.001
Conversion of a Resource, SI 00815.200
Definition of resources, SI 01110.100
Checking and Savings accounts, SI 01140.200
Commingled funds, SI 01130.700
The Claims Resolution Act of 2010, SI 00830.852
Presenter Information

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