

# Social Security Benefits

## SSI REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES



**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 ---- SSI*

## **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)

Policy for  
excluding the  
claims settlement  
payments

# 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 Claims Resolution Act of 2010**

**SI 00830.852**

(SI 00830.852A.2 in  
this section)

Policy for  
excluding the  
claims settlement  
payments

## **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



## **Restricted IIM Account**

Requires BIA authorization for the individual to make a withdrawal

## **Unrestricted IIM Account**

Does not require BIA authorization for the individual to make a withdrawal

# Examples show how regular income and resources apply to IIM Accounts



## 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



## Spotlight on Reporting Responsibilities

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

# Policy References



- 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



**KIMBERLY YELLOW ROBE, MBA  
ROSEBUD SIOUX  
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
SAN FRANCISCO REGION  
AMERICAN INDIAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST  
(866)964-1941 EXT. 14050  
KIMBERLY.YELLOW.ROBE@SSA.GOV**