

Using 1619b and H-1200 to Retain SSI and Medicaid

- 1619b is an automatic process* that is part of SSI and managed by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

People on SSI whose earned income causes their SSI cash benefit to go to \$0 a month continue to receive Medicaid because of 1619b, an SSA rule that says you are still an eligible recipient of SSI even though you don't get a cash benefit until your earnings reach the state threshold of (in calendar year 2015) gross annual \$34,289.

In other words, if you stopped working your SSI cash benefit would resume automatically. You are in a suspension, not termination status when your SSI cash benefit goes to \$0 due to earnings.

*Although 1619(b) should be an automatic process, be aware that this does not always happen smoothly and there is often a gap in Medicaid coverage. SSA and the CMS computer systems are linked and when a beneficiary is eligible for 1619(b), SSA enters a code in their system that in turn is read by CMS to continue Medicaid. Often times this entry is missed by one or both parties. It is a good practice to remind the SSA worker that the person is 1619(b) eligible and to enter them into the system. The good news is that the Medicaid will go back and cover any allowable gaps but this could take months without proper advocacy.

A person who is age 65 or older may establish eligibility under section 1619(b) provided that he or she is determined to be either blind or disabled.

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/1619b.htm>

- Form H1200, Application for Assistance, Your Texas Benefits

The HHSC system process for Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities includes people who:

- Lost Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.
- Need to be in a nursing home or other place of care.
- or
- Have a disability.

If a person's Title II cash benefit is above the Federal Benefit Rate + \$20 they will no longer be eligible for SSI and therefore will be terminated from Medicaid. In order to keep Medicaid they must apply using HHSC Application for Assistance, the H1200 form (in addition to the SSA 1619b).

<http://yourtexasbenefits.hhsc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/docs/1200-eng.pdf>

