

**At a Glance:
Vocational Rehabilitation: Section 301 Benefits
For Transition Planning**

Description of Service:

Section 301 can continue SSI and Medicaid for a youth who has a disability that will not be counted by Social Security as severe enough to be disabling for work after age 18, if there is an active and achievable vocational plan in place before the youth turns 18. These benefits will last only until the youth completes the vocational plan.

Background:

Some conditions that are determined to be disabilities for Children's SSI are not severe enough to meet the criteria for Adult SSI or SSDI benefits. This means that some youth lose their SSI checks and their Medicaid when they turn 18. This can lead to them being uninsured.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The youth is receiving Children's SSI and is not yet 18.
- The youth has a disability that will probably not meet SSI/SSDI eligibility criteria after age 18. These will likely be students who have been classified as SLD, DH, OHI, or SBH for special education services.
- The youth has an active plan with BVR or BSVI that has a specific and achievable vocational goal.
- There is a projected date for completion of the plan.

VR Services:

Will include a **vocational plan developed and approved**

Can include:

Vocational counseling and guidance

Physical Restoration (medical intervention that decreases impact of disability on work)

Training (vocational, college, etc.)

Advantage

- Reduces the family's need to have them work immediately because youth can keep health insurance and SSI until the training is completed
- Encourages a planful approach to career/job development by funding training through VR
- Helps youth be ready to get a job with health insurance when SSI/Medicaid ends
- Can be combined with the Student Earned Income Exclusion work incentive

Procedure:

Identify youth likely to lose SSI when 18.

Help family and student work out training requirements to meet career goals.

Refer to BVR/BVSI by age 16 or 17.

Apply for SEIE by age 18.