

# SIB

SIBLING INFORMATION BULLETIN

AHRC/NEW YORK

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## Entitlements

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### WHAT ARE ENTITLEMENTS ?

Entitlements are benefits or payments made to eligible individuals from public or government programs such as **Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare or Medicaid** and from private programs such as union annuities or pensions.

Entitlements are so-called because eligible individuals have a legal right-are **entitled**-to receive them. There are also legal safeguards in place to assure that they are properly awarded and fairly distributed.

Although you or your family members may be eligible for entitlements, you will not receive them until you apply for them... They do not happen automatically!

There are no entitlements specifically set up for such services/programs as residences, camping, family support, or recreation, but various entitlement programs such as Medicaid, may, in some cases, assist families in paying for these services.

### SOCIAL SECURITY

While Social Security is best known as an entitlements program for retired people, it was set up to provide income replacement to employed workers and their families in the event not only of the worker's retirement, but in cases of his/her disability or death. Thus, our developmentally-disabled brothers and sisters may qualify for Social Security through the following circumstances:

- Retirement of a Formerly-Employed Parent
- Disability of a Formerly-Employed Parent (SSDI)
- Death of Formerly-Employed Parent (Survivors Benefits)

The Social Security system works this way: employed people pay taxes (known as FICA) into the system during their working years, and they and/or members of their families receive monthly benefits at their retirement or if they become disabled. In addition, their spouses, children up

AHRC'S SIBLING NETWORK SPONSORS MONTHLY SIBLING SELF-HELP MEETINGS. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT: SIBLING COORDINATOR AT 212/780-2592.  
UPCOMING MEETINGS: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1995  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1995  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1995

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