

SSI 50th Anniversary & National Disability Employment Awareness Month Toolkit: October 2022

The Century Foundation and the Disability Economic Justice Collaborative are excited to share our social media toolkit for October 2022, which focuses on commemorating 1) the 50th anniversary of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and 2) National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

All posts are drafted with Twitter in mind, but can be used across social media platforms. [You can download the graphics that accompany this social toolkit here.](#)

Social media content:

Jump to: [SSI anniversary](#) | [SSI anniversary \(day of\)](#) | [NDEAM](#) | [Download graphics + alt text](#)

SSI's 50th Anniversary (all month + **tweetstorm 10/28, 12-1 ET)**

Hashtags: #SSlat50, #UpdateSSI

#1:

The Supplemental Security Income program (SSI) was signed into law by President Nixon in 1972 to ensure disabled and older Americans wouldn't live in poverty.

But today, it's "trapping people in a place where dignity is out of reach." #SSlat50

#DemolishDisabledPoverty

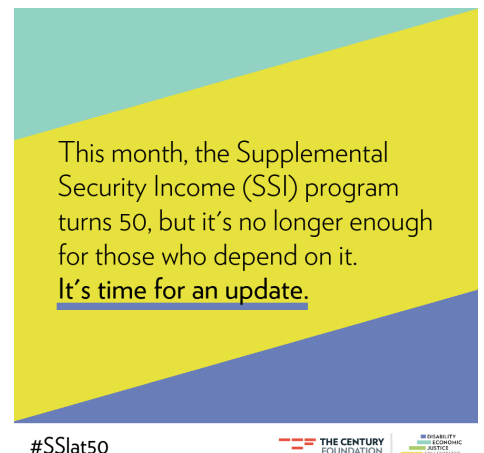
<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/09/15/1121848289/social-security-disability-inflation-poverty>

#2

#SSI was created to ensure that no seniors or people w/disabilities live in poverty. But asset limits that haven't budged even for inflation in decades punish people for saving & lock them in poverty. It's time for Congress to #UpdateSSI & #DemolishDisabledPoverty.

#3

1 in 4 people in the US have a disability. But #SSI, a critical part of our #SocialSecurity system for low-income #PWD & seniors, has been forgotten by Congress for decades, leaving beneficiaries unable to afford basic needs, @fred_ckelly writes for @NPR & @KHNews. It's time to #UpdateSSI.



#SSlat50

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/09/15/1121848289/social-security-disability-inflation-poverty>

#4

#SSlat50 is a program that hasn't been updated in almost as many years. @SenSherrodBrown & @SenRobPortman's bipartisan SSI Savings Elimination Act would ensure those who receive #SSI are no longer penalized for saving. It's time to #UpdateSSI!


<https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/02/senate-bill-seeks-to-update-supplemental-security-income-asset-rules.html>


#5


Fact: Thousands of people go broke or die each year in the US while waiting to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), meant to help older & disabled people. As we approach the program's 50 year anniversary, it's past time to #UpdateSSI.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/09/15/1121848289/social-security-disability-inflation-poverty>

#6

#SSI's income thresholds would be more than 5x larger today if they had been set to  w/ inflation:

 general income threshold would be \$128/month up from \$20

 earned income threshold would be \$416/month, up from \$65

It's time to #UpdateSSI.

<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/encouraging-work-supplemental-security-income-program>

#7

Voters on left and right agree: it's time to #UpdateSSI:

➡ 77% want SSI benefits increased to at least the federal poverty level

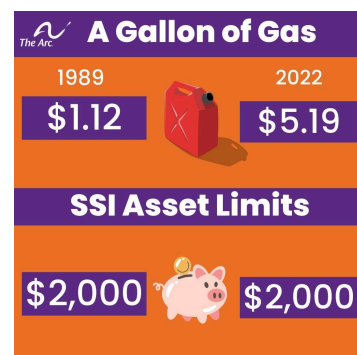
➡ 70% want outdated asset limits raised

➡ 67% want to eliminate SSI asset limits

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/building-back-better-must-include-strengthening-supplemental-security-income/>

#8

The federal govt shouldn't punish people for saving. @SenSherrodBrown & @SenRobPortman's bipartisan #SSI bill would #updateSSI's outdated asset limits for the first time in nearly 40 years, allowing people to save and plan for the



future.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewbiggs/2022/06/10/bipartisan-cooperation-to-battle-poverty/?sh=6d0833124a4e>

#9

#SSI was established as part of our #SocialSecurity system in 1972 with the promise that older & disabled people should not be condemned to poverty.

But as we commemorate #SSlat50, decades of federal neglect mean millions are trapped in poverty instead. #DemolishDisabledPoverty #SSlat50

#10

#SSI's antiquated asset limits—stuck at \$2K for individuals & \$3K for couples since 1989—have become the most regressive anti-savings measure in federal law. As we mark #SSlat50, right and left agree it's past time to #UpdateSSI! #NDEAM

<https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/3532554-congress-should-give-ssi-asset-limits-a-21st-century-upgrade/>

#11

"Updating & simplifying the asset & income limits for SSI will help expand economic opportunity and mobility for people with disabilities while advancing a more inclusive workforce." This is why @jpmorganchase agrees it's time to #UpdateSSI!

<https://www.jpmorganchase.com/content/dam/jpmc/jpmorgan-chase-and-co/documents/policy-center-asset-limit-issue-brief-ada.pdf>

#12

#SSI's outdated rules don't just hurt beneficiaries—they make the program burdensome for @SocialSecurity to run.

According to @NiskanenCenter, 8x more people receive #SocialSecurity than SSI, but SSI costs 80% of what Social Security takes to administer.

<https://www.niskanencenter.org/raising-ssi-asset-limits-raises-recipient-opportunity/>

#13

“We see too many people with disabilities and their families forced to impoverish themselves in order to maintain critical SSI benefits, instead of being able to save for the future and for emergencies that arise in all of our lives,” says @TheArcUS. As we mark #SSlat50, it’s time to #UpdateSSI!

<https://thearc.org/blog/the-arc-supports-bill-to-allow-people-with-disabilities-to-earn-and-save-more-money/>

#14

What would updating the SSI program mean to older & disabled people who rely on it? For many, it would change their lives. Read more from SSI beneficiaries in their own words, via @TCFdotorg:

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/words-updating-ssi-mean-disabled-older-americans/> #SSlat50 #UpdateSSI

#15

How could increasing the SSI asset limit change lives? For Lauren, it would make her dreams more achievable. Read more from @TheArcUS:

https://thearc.org/blog/for-lauren-increasing-the-ssi-asset-limit-makes-her-dreams-more-achievable/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=advocacy #SSlat50 #UpdateSSI

SSI’s 50th Anniversary (tweetstorm: Oct 28, 2022, 12-1 ET; actual anniversary = Oct. 30)

Hashtags: #SSlat50, #UpdateSSI

#1

On 10/30 the Supplemental Security Income program turns 50. SSI provides life-changing support for millions of disabled & older people, but its ability to help is shrinking—key elements of the program haven’t been updated since it was created in 1972. It’s time to #UpdateSSI. #SSlat50

#2

SSI’s 50th anniversary is bittersweet—though it’s helped millions of disabled and older people, it’s been left to wither on the vine: People who rely on SSI today face asset limits that haven’t been updated in nearly 40 yrs, trapping them in poverty. It’s time to #UpdateSSI! #SSlat50

#3



The SSI program was created to ensure people w/disabilities and seniors wouldn't live in poverty, but today, it does the opposite. Thank you @SenSherrodBrown & @SenRobPortman for leading the way to update SSI's asset limit! #UpdateSSI #SSlat50

#4

Nearly 8M people rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), but many are trapped in poverty due to SSI's outdated income & asset limits— & antiquated rules preventing them from marrying or accepting help from loved ones. As we celebrate #SSlat50, it's time to #UpdateSSI

#5

What would updating SSI mean to older & disabled people who rely on it? For many, it would change their lives. Read more from SSI beneficiaries in their own words, via @TCFdotorg:

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/words-updating-ssi-mean-disabled-older-americans/> #SSlat50

#UpdateSSI

#6

"When it's really cold, they let us sit in the lobby of the police station, but not at night."

When Clara's furnace broke, she needed \$2600 to fix it—but getting a loan would put her over the #SSI asset limit & disqualify her. This is #SSlat50.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3702528-lifeline-for-people-with-disabilities-forces-them-to-live-in-poverty/>

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Hashtag: #NDEAM, #DemolishDisabledPoverty

#1

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities, acknowledge injustices that hold disabled people back, & uplift inclusive employment policies & practices. Follow #NDEAM to learn & get involved.



#2

Nearly 25% of the population have a disability, yet disabled people face a poverty rate nearly twice as high as nondisabled people. It's time for policymakers & employers to recognize that reality & create workplaces that are accessible & equitable for all people. #NDEAM

Disabled workers face a stark wage gap, earning 74 cents on the dollar, on average, compared with nondisabled workers.



#3

More than 32 years after the ADA became law, working-age adults with disabilities in the US still face poverty rates twice as high & were paid an average of 74 cents for every dollar paid to their nondisabled peers. It's past time we address these gaps. #NDEAM

#4

SSI's outdated asset limits lock recipients in poverty & punish them for entering the workforce: payments decrease if a recipient has more than \$85 a month in outside income, & are revoked if a person exceeds \$2000 in savings. It's time to #UpdateSSI #NDEAM

#5

Fact: Disabled people experience poverty at nearly twice the rate of non-disabled people.

Barriers to employment—including denial of reasonable ADA accommodations, biases in hiring, & a lack of accessibility—prevent disabled people from reaching true economic equity. #NDEAM

The poverty rate for adults with disabilities is **more than twice the rate** faced by nondisabled adults, leaving **nearly a quarter** of all adults with disabilities living in poverty.

#6

SSI's earned income & asset limits create a disincentive to work for beneficiaries whose conditions permit them to do so. Disabled people should be able to work, earn, & save without being punished by losing their SSI benefits. #NDEAM #UpdateSSI

#7

In 2022 in the US, it's legal to pay disabled workers a subminimum wage. While many states have taken action to ban subminimum wages—more work has to be done to eliminate them across the country.

#NDEAM

<https://tcf.org/content/commentary/removing-economic-barriers-for-disabled-people-requires-understanding-intersectionality/>

#8

30+ years after the ADA, many people w/ disabilities still live in poverty, and people of color are disproportionately impacted. It's long past time for change—all disabled people should have access to inclusive employment opportunities & supports like SSI. #NDEAM

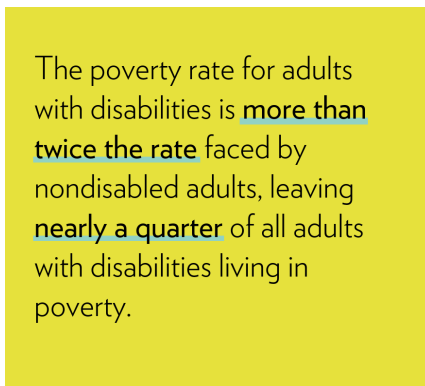
Download graphics

[You can download all graphics here.](#)

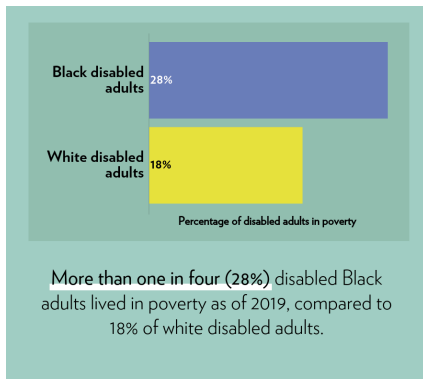
Alt-text for graphics



Blue and green-tinted photographs of smiling people with text “This October we’re celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month! Join us on social #NDEAM”



A yellow background with black text that reads: The poverty rate for adults with disabilities is more than twice the rate faced by nondisabled adults, leaving nearly a quarter of all adults with disabilities living in poverty. The image also includes logos for The Century Foundation and the Disability Economic Justice Collaborative.



Horizontal bar graph depicting that more than one in four disabled black adults live in poverty as of 2019, compared to just 18 percent of white disabled adults.



White words on a purple background read: “Disabled workers face a stark wage gap, earning 74 cents on the dollar on average, compared with nondisabled workers.” The image shows a dollar bill with a line down it showing just 74 cents-worth of the whole dollar.



Too often, having a disability results in economic insecurity. It's time to change that.

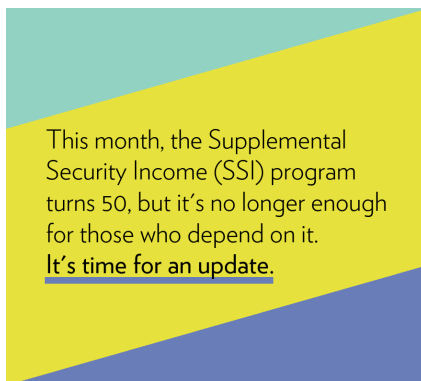


polling was conducted by Data for Progress, in partnership with The Century Foundation's Disability Economic Justice Collaborative.

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Purple and green infographic with text: just 3 in 10 disabled voters believe that leaders in Washington care about people with disabilities.



#SSlat50

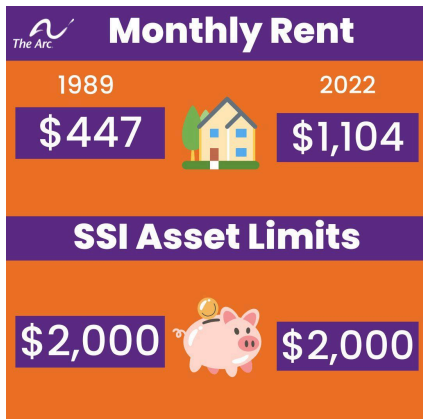
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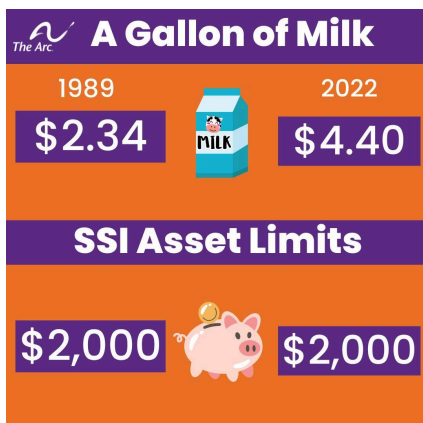
This month, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program turns 50, but it's no longer enough for those who depend on it. It's time for an update.



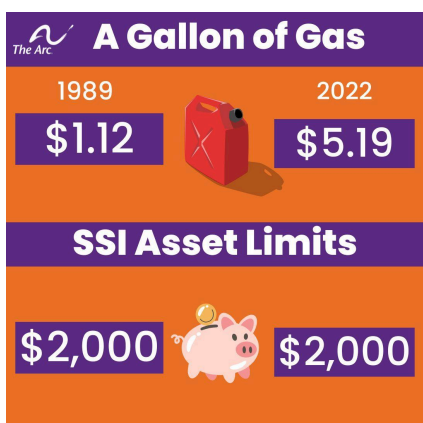
Comparing changes in the cost of eggs between 1989 and 2022 to changes in the SSI asset limit between the same years. The cost of eggs increased from \$0.96 to \$1.79. The SSI asset limit (\$2,000) stayed the same.



Comparing changes in the average cost of monthly rent between 1989 and 2022 to changes in the SSI asset limit between the same years. The average monthly rent cost increased from \$447 to \$1,104. The SSI asset limit (\$2,000) stayed the same.



Comparing changes in the average cost of a gallon of milk between 1989 and 2022 to changes in the SSI asset limit between the same years. The average cost of a gallon of milk increased from \$2.34 to \$4.40. The SSI asset limit (\$2,000) stayed the same.



Comparing changes in the average cost of a gallon of gas between 1989 and 2022 to changes in the SSI asset limit between the same years. The average cost of a gallon of gas increased from \$1.12 to \$5.19. The SSI asset limit (\$2,000) stayed the same.