Property Essential to Self-Support

If you are receiving SSI benefits and:

- own properties or equipment that you use in your job,
- own property that provides income, or
- own property that you use to provide goods to feed your household,

tell your Social Security Administration (SSA) representative how this helps you earn money.

How the PESS Works

Social Security will not count some of the following property when calculating your monthly SSI benefit amount:

- the full value of tools or equipment used for trade or business, for example, (carpenter tools, mechanic tools, computers, wheelchairs, or inventory used for a trade or business)
- certain amounts of the value of non-business properties that are used to produce goods, (i.e., land used to produce vegetables or livestock solely for consumption by the individual’s own household)
- some amounts of non-business, income-producing properties, provided that the property yields a profit

To find out if the PESS is applicable to you, contact your local Social Security Administration claims representative.

The information contained in this fact sheet has been reviewed by the Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Programs, for accuracy. However, the viewpoints of this fact sheet do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the Social Security Administration.