

BECAUSE WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

**generations
united**



***SOCIAL SECURITY:
A PROGRAM FOR ALL
GENERATIONS***

**Intergenerational Conflict
in the U.S.?p. 5**





We formed Generations United to argue for a caring society.



Sewing the Social Compact

MORE THAN A RETIREMENT PROGRAM



More than 6.5 million children receive Social Security as part of the family income



Social Security Administration distributes \$2.6 billion each month to directly benefit children



**More benefits to children than
any other federal program**



Types of Benefits for Children & Families

SURVIVORS BENEFIT

- ◉ Unmarried
Children under 18
- ◉ Only life insurance for the majority of children in U.S.
- ◉ Protects 98 percent of children if they lose a parent



When she was a baby, Franni lost her father, a decorated WWII veteran in a car accident leaving her mother widowed with five kids

As soon as Franni's youngest sister started school her mom got a job working odd hours in a supermarket. Her paycheck, a small widow's benefit and survivors benefits from Social Security weren't always enough to keep the heat on during Maine winters but they did put food on the table.



When his father died unexpectedly from a heart attack, a 16 year old boy and his family were left to fend for themselves

“I did a lot of growing up pretty fast then... It gave me a pretty cold, quick lesson which was that life was short, so make the best of it.”



DISABILITY BENEFIT



- For children of disabled workers
- Provides benefits equivalent to \$414,000 disability insurance
- Serves approximately 17 million children

RETIREMENT BENEFIT

- ◉ Child retirement benefit available to dependent children in addition to retired parent or grandparent caregiver
- ◉ Nearly 350,000 children receive
- ◉ Important to Grandfamilies



About 7.6 million children across the country live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives



Presence of grandchild living in household is a predictor of hunger among older adults

Even with Social Security benefits, 21 % of grandparent-headed families are poor.



Without Social Security benefits, the group's poverty rate would be 59 % or more.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

- ◉ Children who are disabled and whose parents' income and resources fall below limit
- ◉ More than a million blind and disabled children receive SSI





Strengthen Social Security:
Reinstate the Student Benefit

STUDENT BENEFIT

- ◉ 1965 Congress expanded eligibility for Social Security child benefits through age 22 for those enrolled in college
- ◉ Enabled thousands of young adults to complete higher education who would not have
- ◉ Two thirds of those receiving the benefit had incomes below poverty line
- ◉ Eliminated in 1981

- I grew up in a family of modest means in South Carolina and was the first member of my family to attend college.
- Several years into my studies, I faced a double tragedy: When I was 21 my mom died. The following year my father died of a heart attack.
- My 13 year old sister moved in with my aunt and uncle. She and I both depended my Social Security Survivor's benefits from our deceased parents.
- Once my law career got off the ground, I became my sister's legal guardian.
- Social Security made a world of difference for my family

SENATOR LINDSAY GRAHAM



**What will Social Security
mean for you and your
family?**

GENERATIONS UNITED RESOURCES

- ◉ Visit www.gu.org
- ◉ Social Security: What's at Stake for Children, Youth and Grandfamilies (Profiles)
- ◉ Children and Families Have a Stake in Social Security
- ◉ Benefits of Social Security for Children
- ◉ Benefits of Social Security for Grandfamilies
- ◉ The Lost Social Security Benefit for Students

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ◉ Jaia Peterson Lent jlent@gu.org
- ◉ Generations United www.gu.org
- ◉ Generations This Week - sign up at www.gu.org
- ◉ Facebook: www.facebook.com/generationsunited
- ◉ Twitter: [@GensUnited](https://twitter.com/GensUnited)
- ◉ YouTube: www.youtube.com/GenerationsUnited

generations
united®

Because we're stronger together®

www.gu.org