

# Property Essential to Self-Support

**Quick Look:** Property Essential to Self-Support (PESS) is a Social Security provision that lets you exclude counting certain properties (resources necessary for your self-support) when Social Security calculates your SSI eligibility.

Be sure to tell your Social Security Administration (SSA) representative how this helps you earn money if you are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and you:

- own property or equipment that you use in your job.
- own property that provides income.

- own property that you use to provide goods to feed your household.

## How It Works

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

- 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, (for example, 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.

**For general information:**

Indiana Works  
***Indiana's Work Incentive Planning and  
Assistance Program***

**Northern and Central Indiana:  
1-855-641-8382 (toll free)**

or

**Southern Indiana:  
1-888-908-7992 (toll free)**

**For the Benefits Information Network:**



INDIANA INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY  
**CENTER ON COMMUNITY  
LIVING AND CAREERS**

**<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cclc>**

**812-855-6508**

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