

# What is Section 301?

## 1 When does Section 301 it come into play?

Section 301 is a **safety net**.

It helps you keep your benefits even if Social Security decides you're no longer medically eligible—for instance if you no longer qualify after the Age 18 Redetermination— as long as you're **working toward a job goal**.

## 2



**Think of It Like This:**



You're making **progress in a program** that helps you **work, go to school, or train for a job**.

Social Security sees that—even if your medical condition has improved—and says “Let’s not take away their SSI or SSDI benefits just yet. They’re doing the work to become self-sufficient.”

## 3 What programs count?

To qualify for Section 301 protection, you must be participating in an approved program that supports your career or independence, such as:

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP) at school
- A vocational rehabilitation (VR) program
- A supported employment program
- A PASS plan (Plan to Achieve Self-Support)

## 4 Key Benefits



- You get to **keep your SSI or SSDI** benefits while you continue with your program
- You can **stay on Medicaid or Medicare**
- You have time to finish school, get training, or start a job before benefits stop

## 5 What you need to do

- Keep attending your program regularly
- Make progress toward your goal
- Let Social Security know about your participation—before your benefits stop

A parent, teacher, benefits planner, or VR counselor can help with this!

## 6 Keep Moving Forward



Section 301 is there to make sure young people don't lose essential support just because they're improving. It's about recognizing effort, honoring progress, and keeping the path to employment open.

**STAY CONNECTED**

Connect with a Certified Benefits Planner at Disability Rights Iowa (DRI) or Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation (IVRS), if you need help utilizing Section 301.

**DRI:** 1-800-779-2502 <https://disabilityrightsowa.org/>

**IVRS:** 1-800-532-1486 <https://workforce.iowa.gov/vr/contact>

