

Does Developmentally Disabled Meet the Threshold of Criteria for the Bureau of Census Definition of "Severely Disabled"

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NEWSBRIEF

(excerpt from January, 29, 1997)

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS

Several Field Offices have asked whether developmentally disabled persons can qualify under the Bureau of the Census definition of "severely disabled" for purposes of meeting the national objective under Section 570.208(a)(2)(i)(A), limited clientele, presumed low/mod benefit. In brief, the answer is yes if the individual meets the definition of a severely handicapped person provided below.

Under this definition, persons are classified as having a severe disability if they: (a) used a wheelchair or had used another special aid for 6 months or longer; (b) were unable to perform one or more functional activities or needed assistance with an Activity of Daily Living or Instrumental Activity of Daily Living; (c) were prevented from working at a job or doing housework; or (d) had a condition including autism, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer's disease, senility, or mental retardation. Finally persons who are under 65 years of age and who are covered by Medicare or receive SSI are considered to have a disability (and a severe disability). Functional activities include seeing, hearing, having one's speech understood, lifting and carrying, walking up a flight of stairs, and walking. Activities of daily living include getting around inside the house, getting in and out of bed or a chair, bathing, dressing, eating, and toileting. Instrumental Activities of Daily Living include going outside the home, keeping track of money or bills, preparing meals, doing light housework, and using the telephone.