



FAQ for Disability and IDA

The federal Social Security Administration disability program places a limit on resources. They define resources as: cash, savings accounts, investment accounts, land, vehicles and other assets. IDAs are exempt from this resource calculation.

From <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-resources-ussi.htm>:

WHAT OTHER RESOURCES DO NOT COUNT FOR SSI? *Money saved in an Individual Development Account (IDA)

Why is IDA exempt from this cap? The account is set up as a third party trust. CASA of Oregon serves as the authorized third party on the account. At no time are the saver's contribution account funds accessible for discretionary use.

What makes IDAs different from other types of savings accounts, when it comes to SSA/disability? All withdrawals from these type of accounts must be authorized by CASA of Oregon and directed to an approved vendor.

What about the matched portion? Matched funds are held in a separate account held solely under CASA's jurisdiction. Withdrawals can occur only once approved by CASA. Because savers are not able to access these funds directly, they are exempt from the cap.

How can we show that this is an IDA? Please complete and submit the 'SSA Exemption Letter Template' found on the VIDA portal. Cumulative statements of your account can be provided by CASA at any time.

EXCEPTIONS:

*Cash reimbursements of expenses already paid for by the person are evaluated under the regular income and resources rules.

*These protections are not guaranteed if the funds are paid to the saver (like in matched emergency withdrawals).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with additional questions or concerns.