

5/19/25

**Public Benefits updates from Lisa Sheehy, Public Benefits & Health Policy specialist, DPH Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs**

One of these updates relates to SCD. The other two do not directly relate, but are timely updates.

**1. Resources on Social Security disability benefits for people with Sickle Cell Disease from the U.S. Social Security Administration**

- *Sickle Cell Disease and the Social Security Disability Evaluation Process for Children* (October 2024): <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-004.pdf>
- *Sickle Cell Disease and the Social Security Disability Evaluation Process for Adults* (September 2024): <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-003.pdf>

**2. Waiver of many SSI overpayments incurred during March 2020 – April 2023:**

During Spring 2025, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is mailing a notice to all SSI recipients who have an SSI overpayment (OP) that was incurred during the Covid-19 emergency period of March 2020 – April 2023. Many will be eligible for a waiver of the OP. This relief results from the settlement of a nationwide class action lawsuit, *Campos v. Kijakazi*. Most SSI OPs incurred from March-September 2020 will be automatically waived by SSA. These SSI recipients do not need to take any action. Most waivers will be processed by June 2025, with notices sent to eligible individuals. In addition, many OPs incurred Oct. 2020-April 2023 may be waived if the SSI recipient files a waiver and identifies the circumstances related to the Covid-19 emergency.

- SSA's *Campos* Fact Sheet:  [Campos Fact Sheet.pdf](#).
- Information available from SSA at: <http://www.ssa.gov/campos/>

**3. New right for Massachusetts tenants: the right to seal many eviction records**

In May 2025, a new law took effect giving Massachusetts tenants the right to seal their eviction records in many cases. After a record is sealed, it is no longer publicly available. In addition, a sealed eviction record cannot be included in a person's credit report. This is part of the Affordable Homes Act (the Housing Bond Bill) signed by Gov. Maura Healey in August 2024. This policy is meant to enable tenants to rent a place to live more easily and reduce a significant barrier to housing access. It importantly promotes health equity by increasing housing stability.

- Information for tenants in English and Spanish from MLRI/Mass Legal Help: [www.SealMyEviction.Org](http://www.SealMyEviction.Org)
- Fact sheet: [https://www.passthehomesact.org/uploads/2/7/0/4/27042339/homes\\_fact\\_sheet\\_9-13-24.pdf](https://www.passthehomesact.org/uploads/2/7/0/4/27042339/homes_fact_sheet_9-13-24.pdf)