

Michigan Updates



Securing today
and tomorrow

A Social Security Newsletter highlighting
Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

September 2016

Celebrating Sixty Years of Social Security Disability Insurance

August 1, 2016, we celebrated an important milestone: 60 years ago, the Social Security Amendments of 1956 established disability insurance as part of Social Security. In the years since then, the disability program has adapted to keep pace with our changing world. For 60 years, Social Security has protected workers and their families in the event of a severe disability.

Social Security is our nation's most effective poverty prevention program, and disability insurance is a key piece of that. Although the benefits are modest (less than \$1,200 per month on average), these payments are the main source of income for most people who receive them. Among disabled workers, 4 out of 5 beneficiaries rely on these benefits for at least half of their income; for more than a third of beneficiaries, it is their only source of income. Social Security disability benefits lift 3 million people out of poverty each year. Visit our [Faces and Facts of Disability](#) page to learn more. Here you can also watch engaging videos and read personal stories from people who rely on this earned benefit.

As of June 2016, there are more than 10 million disabled workers and dependents receiving a portion of the more than \$11 billion sent each month in Social Security disability payments. To meet the challenges of providing benefits to so many, the agency has evolved, using technology to operate more efficiently. Access to online applications for disability benefits, reconsiderations, and hearings have given applicants more service options when applying for benefits. Our health IT initiative allows Social Security to access electronic medical records, including those from the U.S. Department of Defense, which reduces administrative costs, streamlines operations, and speeds up service to veterans.



Whether at birth or in old age, upon the death of a loved one, or in case of disability, Social Security is with you through life's journey! For more information about the disability program, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi.

Shelby Garrison is a public affairs specialist for Social Security located in Flint, MI. If you have an event in the Flint area that you would like Social Security to participate in, please contact Shelby at shelby.garrison@ssa.gov



Social Security

Communicate

Start a conversation

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/materials.html>

Imagine experiencing a disability. Regardless of whether a disability comes as a result of aging, injury, etc., Social Security's Disability Insurance program has served as an essential safety net for workers and their families.

We need your help. There has been a lot of debate recently about the future of Social Security, including Social Security disability insurance. Through all the noise, it can be easy to lose sight of the facts and the vital role that this program serves in the life of every worker. Join the conversation to ensure that we continue to offer world-class service for all Americans who have earned their benefits through a lifetime of hard work.

Conversations

Matter



Suggest improvements. Talk with others about disability. Spread the word about our program to the people in your community and keep it going strong for another 60 years.

Facts

Did you know that fifty-six million Americans live with disabilities? Disability is something many read or hear about happening to others, but no one thinks will happen to them.

Did you know more than one in four 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching retirement age and will need Social Security disability payments for income support?



Employment Support Highlight

By: Hillary Kanady, Area Work Incentive Coordinator

Reporting Work

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10153.pdf>

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11011.pdf>

Beneficiaries that receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits must promptly report any changes in work activity.

Tell us right away if:

- Work starts or stops;
- Duties, hours, or pay have changed;
- If the beneficiary starts paying for expenses that are needed for work due to the disability.

Changes in work activity can be reported by phone, fax, mail, or in person. Call our toll-free number 1-800-772-1213 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, or call, visit, or write the local SSA office.

For SSI beneficiaries, Social Security also offers a toll-free automated wage reporting telephone system and a mobile wage reporting application. For more information about these electronic wage reporting methods, please see our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-telephone-wage.htm or call our toll-free number 1-800-772-1213 and ask Social Security how to report wages using the system or application.

When changes in work activity are reported, we will issue a receipt to verify that the beneficiary has properly fulfilled the obligation to report. Keep the receipt with all other important papers from Social Security. Also, save paystubs so that we can verify monthly earnings, and any deductions from earnings that may be allowed.

You can also sign up for email or text reminders to report monthly wages for SSI at

<https://www.ssa.gov/ssiwagereporting/>.



The Social Security Disability Webinar Series is Back!

Due to popular demand, we are presenting the disability webinar series once again. The first of the 3-part series is below with three different dates and times to choose from for your convenience.

Understanding Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The three options that will appear in the drop down box after clicking on the link to register are the following:

- Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 9:00 a.m. (FULL)
- Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 1, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Share this invite with your colleagues,
associates, partners and peers.

Register now!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7107327101780827395>

This webinar will explain the difference between Social Security disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Although both programs are administered by The Social Security Administration, they are not even close to the same thing. From how one qualifies to how one receives benefits, they are different.

If you want a good base regarding the differences between the programs, this is a good first training session.

This will cover entitlement factors for the various benefits as well as explain important details such as the onset date, living arrangement and earnings from working.

You will also learn about the application process from the initial stage to the appeals level and discover valuable online tools and resources available to assist both the public and the advocates.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The Social Security presenters will be Vonda VanTil, Public Affairs Specialist and Hillary Kanady, Area Work Incentive Coordinator.

Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to vonda.vantil@ssa.gov