

# Michigan Updates



Securing today  
and tomorrow

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

December 2016

## New Way to Check your Application Status Online

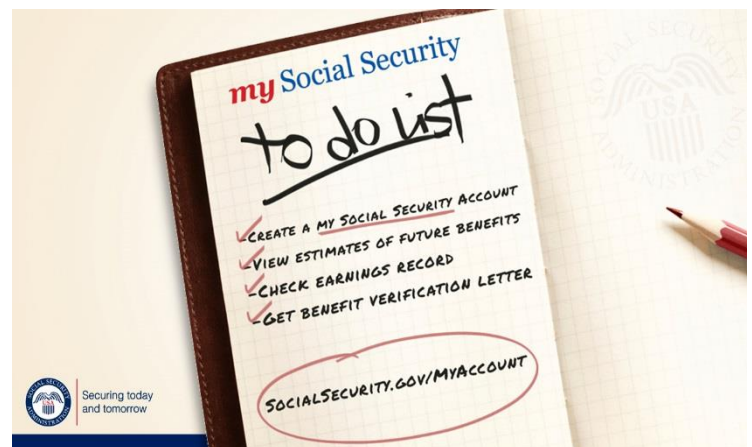
You can now check on the status of an application for benefits or an appeal filed with Social Security through your **my Social Security** account.

This new service provides detailed information about retirement, disability, survivors, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income claims and appeals filed either online at [socialsecurity.gov](http://socialsecurity.gov) or with a Social Security employee.

You must have a **my Social Security** account to take advantage of this new service. You can open an account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Checking on your Application Status provides important information about your claim or appeal, including, as appropriate:

- Date of filing;
- Current claim location;
- Scheduled hearing date and time;
- Re-entry numbers for incomplete applications;
- Servicing office location; and
- Claim or appeal decision.



If you are unable to open a **my Social Security** account, you can still call 1-800-772-1213 to check your claim status by using our automated system using the confirmation number you received when you filed your claim.

Providing our customers with more claim status information helps us meet our goal of delivering innovative, quality services to you and helping secure today and tomorrow.

## How Long Will Social Security Disability Benefits Last?

By Hillary Kanady, Area Work Incentive Coordinator

In most cases, a person will continue to receive benefits as long as the individual is disabled. However, there are certain circumstances that may change the continuing eligibility for disability benefits. For example,

- an individual's health may improve to the point where he or she is no longer disabled; or
- like many people, the individual would like to go back to work rather than depend on disability benefits.

The law requires that we review a case from time to time to verify that an individual is still disabled. How often we review the case depends on whether the condition is expected to improve. If medical improvement is:

- "Expected," the case will normally be reviewed within six to 18 months after the benefits start.
- "Possible," the case will normally be reviewed no sooner than three years.
- "Not expected," the case will normally be reviewed no sooner than seven years.

We tell an individual if it is time to review the case, and we keep them informed about the benefit status. Beneficiaries also should be aware that they are responsible for letting us know if their health improves or if they go back to work.

There are special rules that help beneficiaries keep cash benefits and Medicare while they test their ability to work. We call these rules "work incentives." Work incentives include, but are not limited to, continued monthly benefits and Medicare coverage while a beneficiary attempts to work on a full-time basis.

<https://www.ssa.gov/planners/disability/dwork1.html>



**For more information about SSA's work incentives and employment support programs, register for the upcoming webinar, "Can you work while receiving SSDI/SSI? Find out how."**

[See Next Page for Webinar Details.](#)

# The Disability Webinar Series is Back!

Due to popular demand, we are pleased to bring back this educational disability webinar series once again.

Registration details on the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the 3-part series is below. Three available dates and times to choose from for your convenience.

## Can you work while receiving SSDI/SSI? Find out how

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

- Thursday, January 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 31, 2017, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

**Register now!**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/4573663086332542979>

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can work and receive benefits. Unfortunately, most fear that working will jeopardize or even terminate their Social Security benefits and healthcare immediately. However, this is not always the case!

The fact is that Social Security's work incentives programs are there to help beneficiaries go back to work, obtain a decent employment opportunity that may lead to a career, save more money and become financially independent, all while keeping their health coverage.

Hillary Kanady, Area Work Incentive Coordinator for Social Security in Michigan will lead this session. She will explain the over 1 dozen various work incentives that beneficiaries can take advantage of while receiving SSI, SSDI or both. Hillary will discuss different scenarios of how Social Security calculates monthly SSI payment amounts while an individual is working, what happens when a beneficiary enters their Extended Period of Eligibility, and everything in between.

Hillary will address important reporting responsibilities, medical reviews, Medicare and Medicaid eligibility and the Ticket to Work Program. This session will enhance your understanding of how a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) can be the perfect way for your clients to set aside money to pursue an employment goal.

Take advantage of this opportunity and learn about Social Security's work incentives directly from the expert at the Social Security Administration right here in Michigan.



**NEW!**

## Appeal your Non-Medical Decisions Online

[www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/appeal.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/appeal.html)

You no longer need to visit our offices or call us to appeal a denial or adverse action related to your benefits. Beginning December 10, 2016, you can file an appeal online for non-medical issues, even if you live outside the United States. Examples of non-medical appeals include those for overpayments and Medicare premium rates.

The online appeals application is simple, convenient, and secure; it guides you through every step of the process. From outlining your rights to an appeal, to publications on the appeals process, a fair review of your case is right at your fingertips. The online application also lets you upload supporting documentation and save your submission.

### Appeal A Decision

#### Recent Decisions

If you were recently denied Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for medical or non-medical reasons, you may request an appeal online and provide documents electronically to support your appeal. You can file an appeal online even if you live outside of the United States.

To successfully submit your appeal, you will need to select the submit button before ending your online session. Submission of your appeals and necessary documents online will save time and can help return a faster decision.

[Appeal Medical Decision](#)

[Continue A Medical Appeal You Already Started](#)

[Appeal Other Decision](#)

Submitting your appeal and necessary documents online will save time and can help expedite the decision. Here are some things you'll need when you're ready to submit an appeal:

- Notice date or receipt from Social Security that explains what adverse action you wish to appeal; and
- Supporting documentation you wish to add to your request for appeal.

Social Security is constantly looking for ways to make our services accessible and readily available when you need them. It's part of our commitment to delivering excellent service and providing you with more options, like an online appeal, to conduct your business.

## 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](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov)