



Michigan Updates

*A Social Security Newsletter for Employment
Support Updates*

my

Social
Security



SIGN IN OR
CREATE AN
ACCOUNT

On this anniversary of September 11th,

we remember the victims and continue to
support their families through Survivors
and Disability benefits.

To learn about Survivors and Disability benefits, go to

www.socialsecurity.gov



Social Security is America's family protection plan. It is more than a retirement program. If you have lost a loved one, or have a disability, you may be eligible for benefits. To learn more about Survivors and Disability benefits, go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Did you know that prostate cancer affects 16 million men and their families worldwide and is the second leading cancer in American men?

This Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, make sure your father, grandfather, or other loved ones are aware of the free prostate cancer screenings and other preventive services available under Medicare Part B coverage.

www.medicare.gov/coverage/prostate-cancer-screenings.html



Prostate cancer affects 16 million men worldwide and is the second leading cancer in American men.

This Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, tell your father, grandfather or other loved ones about free prostate cancer screenings available under Medicare Part B coverage.



www.medicare.gov/coverage/prostate-cancer-screenings.html

September is National Guide Dog Month

Many people who depend on guide dogs also depend on disability benefits. If you are blind or have low vision and receive disability benefits from us, we have a number of services and products specifically designed for you, including the ability to receive notices from us in various formats.

To learn more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/notices.





Disability Determination Process (DDS)

Most Social Security disability claims are initially processed through a network of local Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices and State agencies (usually called Disability Determination Services or DDSs). Subsequent appeals of unfavorable determinations may be decided in a DDS or by an administrative law judge in SSA's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

Social Security representatives in the field offices usually obtain applications for disability benefits in person, by telephone, by mail, or by filing online. The application and related forms ask for a description of the claimant's impairment(s), treatment sources, and other information that relates to the alleged disability. (The "claimant" is the person who is requesting disability benefits.)

The field office is responsible for verifying non-medical eligibility requirements, which may include age, employment, marital status, or Social Security coverage information. The field office then sends the case to a DDS for evaluation of disability.

The DDSs, which are fully funded by the Federal Government, are State agencies responsible for developing medical evidence and making the initial determination on whether or not a claimant is disabled or blind under the law.

Usually, the DDS tries to obtain evidence from the claimant's own medical sources first. If that evidence is unavailable or insufficient to make a determination, the DDS will arrange for a consultative examination (CE) to obtain the additional information needed. The claimant's treating source is the preferred source for the CE, but the DDS may obtain the CE from an independent source. After completing its development of the evidence, trained staff at the DDS makes the initial disability determination.

Then, the DDS returns the case to the field office for appropriate action. If the DDS found that the claimant is disabled, SSA completes any outstanding non-disability development, computes the benefit amount, and begins paying benefits. If the claimant was found not to be disabled, the file is kept in the field office in case the claimant decides to appeal the determination.

Where are the DDS offices in Michigan?

The Michigan Disability Determination Service is a decentralized agency with offices in four locations:

Disability Determination Service
P.O. Box 30011
Lansing, MI 48909
1-800-366-3404

Disability Determination Service
P.O. Box 1200
Traverse City, MI 49685
1-800-632-1097

Disability Determination Service
P.O. Box 4020
Kalamazoo, MI 49003
1-800-829-7763

Disability Determination Service
P.O. Box 345
Detroit, MI 48231
1-800-383-7155



Information We Need About Work and Education (Step 4 and Step 5)

To decide whether or not someone is disabled, we use a five-step process.

Listed below are frequently asked questions about **Step 4** and **Step 5** of the process.

We need to find out about past work to decide if the person can still do it. To make this decision, we need to know how the person did their job. We also need to know if they learned skills on the job.

We need this information to see if they can do any of their past work. Remember that someone is not disabled according to our rules unless their illnesses, injuries or conditions prevent them from doing past work or adjusting to other work.

Information about education and training are also very important to us. If the person cannot do their past work, we look at their age, education, training, and work experience to see if they could do other kinds of work.

Step 4: Can you do the work you did previously?

› What work activities can I do if I have a medical condition ?

› How do you decide whether I can do my past work ?

› What information do you need about my past work ?

› What happens if you do not get the information you need ?

› What happens if you find I am able to do my past work, but I cannot get a job doing that work ?

Step 5: Can you do any other type of work?

› What do you consider when you decide if I can adjust to other work ?

› How do you consider education ?

› How do you consider age ?

› How do you consider my work experience ?

› How do you evaluate recent education that provides me skills I can use?

› How do you evaluate the effect of my age, education and work experience on my remaining capacity to work ?

Answers to the above questions can be found at
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/step4and5.htm#sb=-1>



Social Security is important to Hispanics

We are living longer, healthier lives and we spend more time in retirement than our parents and "abuelos" did.

Social Security is important because it provides an inflation-protected benefit that lasts as long as we live.

Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/hispanics.



Future Michigan Updates

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