

# ***Social Security Benefits Indian Country***



# SSA's Two Disability Programs

## **Social Security Disability (SSDI)**

- Based on work
- Replaces part of lost wages
- Amount is based on wages
- Family benefit
- Medicare

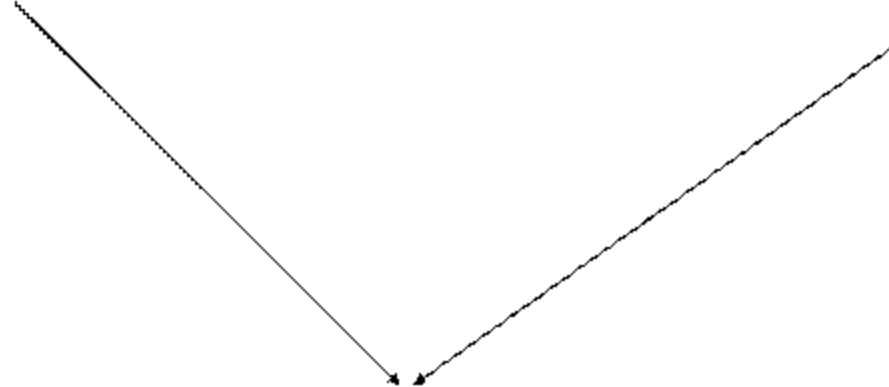
## **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

- Based on need
- Aged, blind or otherwise disabled
- Usually a U.S. Citizen
- Must live in the U.S.
- Limited income & resources

# Two Disability Programs

**SSDI**

**SSI**



**Same disability standard**

# Definition of Disability

Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable impairment which can be expected to result in death *or* which has lasted or can be expected to last for not less than 12 months

# Substantial Gainful Activity

SGA is the performance of significant and productive physical or mental work for pay or profit

SGA is average countable earnings over \$980 for non-blind individuals.

SGA for the blind is set at \$1,640 for the year 2009.

# SSDI Eligibility Requirements

- Be Insured
- Be Disabled
- Also benefits for disabled widows and children

# For SSDI, we will determine:

- Insured status
- Age
- Relationship
- All other non-medical aspects

# SSDI

- Payment amount based on average lifetime earnings
- Waiting period to initially receive benefits: 5 full calendar months
- Medicare Qualifying Period: 24 months
- Benefits are subject to cessation if claimant returns to work



# SSI Eligibility Requirements

- Have Little or No Resources
- Are Disabled
- Have limited income
- Are a US Citizen or Legal Resident
- Reside in the US

# For SSI:

- We will determine financial eligibility
- We will determine Resources
- We will determine Income

# SSI

- Payment amount based on income, living arrangements, and state you live in
- No waiting period to initially receive benefits.
- In California, automatic entitlement to Medi-Cal.
- Benefits are not subject to cessation if you return to work

# Reporting Responsibilities

- When you get SSI you **must** report if:
- you move or change your address
- someone moves in/out your house
- your income changes
- you get help with living expenses

**Reports should be made to SSA within 10 days**

# Where do you start?

- Complete the iClaim online at:  
<http://mwww.ba.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>
- Complete the Adult Disability and Work History Report (i3368) at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i3368/main.html>

# What's next?

- Disability report is electronically transmitted to SSA
- Sign and date the medical release forms
- Medical Examiners will make the medical decision

# Determining Disability

- Is the person working?
  - If he or she is earning over \$980 – claim
  - is denied
- Is the person's medical condition "severe"?
  - Does it limit his or her ability to work
  - Will it last one year
- Is his or her medical condition on the List of impairments?

# And then...

- Can the person do the work he or she did before?
  - Work history for the past 15 years
- Can he or she do any other type of work?
  - State agency evaluates your:
    - Medical condition
    - Age
    - Education
    - Past Work History
    - Transferable Skills



# How long does the process take?

- Up to 3 – 5 months for a medical decision
- Terminal cases receive priority
- Immediate SSI payments for:
  - HIV Infection
  - Total blindness/deafness
  - Down Syndrome
  - Cerebral Palsy/Muscular Dystrophy
  - Amputation of a leg at the hip
  - ALS
  - Severe mental retardation (under age 7)
  - Low birth weight

# Medical Reviews

- When Improvement is Expected – Diary is set
- When Improvement is Possible – 3 years
- When improvement is **not** Expected – 7 years
- When you become eligible for SSI under Sec 1619

If we find that the claimant  
Is no longer disabled - BENEFITS STOP

# **Social Security Online Services are Convenient and Secure**

When legislation was passed in 1935, the Social Security program was solely a retirement program. As the years progressed, the social safety net expanded with the Survivors Benefits and later Disability benefits.

The intent of Social Security was to help replace wages when one retires, becomes disabled or to help families after a worker dies. Each of these social insurance programs is meant to serve as a financial foundation and to help workers and their families and supplement their individual savings and investments as well as private pensions.

Major social objectives of Social Security are to reduce poverty among the elderly and to raise the standard of living among lower income workers. It is estimated that almost one-half of the elderly are kept out of poverty by their Social Security benefits.

Another major social objective is to help keep families together by providing dependents and survivors benefits when the worker retires, dies, or becomes disabled. Almost 12 million wives, husbands, widows, widowers, and children currently receive such benefits.

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov>



# SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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**Retirement** | **Survivors** | **Disability** | **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** | **Medicare**

**What You Can Do Online**

- Check the Status of Your Application
- Business Services Online
- Your Social Security Earnings Statement
- Estimate Your Retirement Benefits
- Already Receiving Benefits
- Forms and Publications
- Report Fraud, Waste or Abuse
- Find a Social Security Office
- Careers with Social Security
- Budget and Performance
- Contact Us
- Login

**INFORMATION IF YOU ARE:**

- Applying Online for Retirement Benefits
- Applying for Disability Benefits
- Requesting a Social Security Card

**Retire Online**  
*It's so easy*

**A VIDEO STARRING PATTY DUKE**

**Economic Recovery One-Time Payments**  
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Receive updates by email

**QUESTIONS?**

Social Security Number & Card  GO

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-- Choose Group --  GO

**OTHER USEFUL LINKS**

-- Choose Site --  GO

**Webinars**

**NEWS**

- Social Security Administration Receives Top Marks from Employees
- Social Security's Online Services Continue to Win Accolades
- Social Security Supports America Saves Week

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# Online Services

- **Apply for retirement, spouse's or disability benefits**
- **Estimate your retirement benefits**
- **Use our benefit planners and calculators**
- **Request Medicare Card Replacement card**
- **Get help understanding your Social Security Statement or request one**

# Apply for Benefits Online

**INFORMATION IF YOU ARE:**

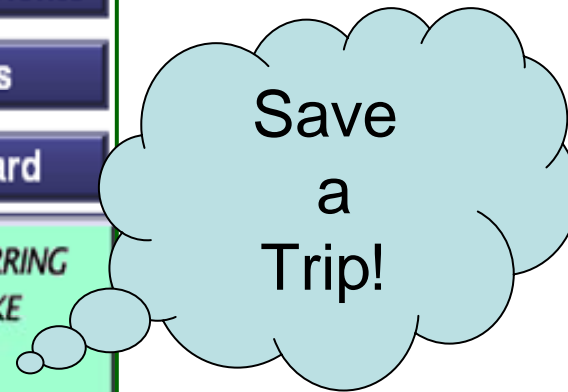
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**Economic Stimulus  
One-Time Payments**  
[CLICK HERE](#)



# Disability Benefit Application

Report can be transferred to US electronically!

If you want to finish an application that you already started:

[Continue Application](#)

**To Start The Application Process...**

**Please select one of the following.** Tell us information about the person completing this application.

- I am applying for myself.
- I am helping someone who wants to apply for benefits and is with me.
- I am helping someone who is not with me, and therefore can not sign the application at this time.

[Privacy Act Statement](#)

I have read the Privacy Act Statement

[Apply For Benefits](#)

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/iRRet/dib>

# SSI Application



**You cannot file for SSI Online**



# Adult Disability and Work History Report provides:

- Security and privacy
- Step by step instructions and examples
- A process to collect information that applies to the claimant
- The ability to complete the report in multiple sessions

Social Security Online

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

## Adult Disability and Work History Report

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**Welcome!**

If you are a professional, representative or organization assisting adults age 18 or older in applying for disability benefits and are familiar with the form SSA-3368-BK Disability Report - Adult, please go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/i3368pro](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/i3368pro). If you are an individual applying for yourself or for another adult or are not familiar with the SSA-3368-BK, continue reading this page.

# **Your Right to Appeal...**

## **It's Your Right – Exercise it!**

- If you ever disagree with a decision we make, you have the right to ask us to look at it again. This is called an appeal.

# Contact

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