

# SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI)

## Social Security Administration (SSA)

### PURPOSE

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSDI pays disability benefits to individuals who are blind or disabled that are unable to work as a direct result of the disability.

### CONTACT

Contact your local Social Security office or call the Social Security Administration at:  
(800) 772-1213  
(800) 325-0778 (TDD)

Social Security publications and information are available on the web at:  
<http://www.ssa.gov>

### FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- See "Eligibility"

### ELIGIBILITY

- Persons must have a severe mental or physical impairment (including blindness) that is verified by a physician;
- the disability is expected to last at least one year or result in death;
- the person is not able to do his or her work or other gainful activity;
- a "recent work" test based on the age at the time the disability occurred;
- a "duration of work" test to show the beneficiary worked long enough under Social Security; and
- the spouse and dependent children of fully insured workers, including adult children with disabilities whose disability began prior to age 22, are also eligible for benefits upon the retirement, disability or death of a primary beneficiary.

### AT SERVICES & DEVICES PROVIDED/COVERED

- No AT services or devices are provided or covered. However, after receiving disability benefits for two years, individuals will be automatically enrolled in Medicare. AT devices and services can be accessed under the durable medical equipment benefit through the purchase of Medicare Part B.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

- Apply online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov); or
- call tollfree (800) 772-1213, to make an appointment to file a disability claim at the local Social Security office; or
- set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the telephone. The disability claims interview lasts about one hour. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, may call the tollfree TTY number, (800) 325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. For an appointment, Social Security will send a Disability Starter Kit to help individuals prepare for the disability claims interview. The Disability Starter Kit is also available online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

### APPEALS PROCESS FOR ALL SSA PROGRAMS

- Whenever SSA makes a decision that affects eligibility or benefits, a letter is sent explaining the decision. If the applicant disagrees, the decision may be appealed and SSA will help with completion of the paperwork. There are four levels of appeal. Individuals may wish to appeal the decision. Throughout the appeals process, there are 60 days at every level to appeal a decision to the next level.