

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI) & SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

What are SSDI and SSI?

SSDI and SSI are Federal programs that provide help to people with disabilities. The two programs are not alike. Both are run by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Who Can Get SSDI and SSI?

Only people who have a disability and meet medical guidelines can receive help from either program.

What Does SSDI Provide?

SSDI pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you have worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

What Does SSI Provide?

SSI pays benefits based on the person's income and their level of disability. If you cannot work or are limited in your ability to work you may qualify for SSI. This government benefit provides a small monthly check and Medicaid insurance.

How Do I Apply?

- Contact the SSA at **1-800-772-1213**.
- For hearing impaired (TTY) call **1-800-325-0778**.
- Or go to the website www.socialsecurity.gov.
- It takes the SSA from 90 to 120 days to process an application.
- Be sure to put the telephone number where your medical records are.
 - The social security office will pull your records at no charge to you.

What Do I Do if I Am Denied?

- Appeal in writing by the deadline date the SSA gives you to appeal. Do not miss the deadline.
- If you get SSDI or SSI and you did not miss a deadline, your benefits will date back to the date of your first application.
- Call your local SSA office if you need help with your appeal.
- You may want to get outside help with your appeal. Especially if you are denied a second time.
 - This help can be a lawyer or an advocate.
 - Disability Rights Texas is one group that helps with appeals. You can visit the website for more information: <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/> and contact them at 1-800-252-9108.

There are four levels of appeal:

1. Reconsideration
2. Hearing by an administrative law judge
3. Review by the Appeals Council
4. Federal court review

Sometimes applications are denied simply because the SSA did not receive enough information. Your denial letter will tell you why you were denied. Call your local SSA office if you need help with your appeal. Additionally, you may want to consider getting outside help with your appeal, especially if you are denied a second time. This assistance can be a lawyer or an advocate, such as Disability Advocates.



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