



# Michigan Update

## *The Twelve Sites of Social Security*

For the first site of Social Security, we give to you: our home page, [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). It's the place to go for all things Social Security. Everything you could want— from online services and benefit screening tools to publications and frequently asked questions—you can find easily on this site.

For the second site of Social Security, we give to you: answers to all of your Social Security related questions at our Frequently Asked Questions page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/faq](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/faq).

For the third site of Social Security, we give to you: an easy way to learn how to replace your Social Security card at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

For the fourth site of Social Security, we give to you: an online application for retirement benefits that you can complete and submit in as little as 15 minutes, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire).

For the fifth site of Social Security, we give to you: five estimates of your future Social Security benefits! Or one, or as many estimates as you would like using different scenarios. Get instant, personalized estimates of your future benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

For the sixth site of Social Security, we give to you: a convenient way to apply for disability benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability).

For the seventh site of Social Security, we give to you: an online application for Medicare that you can complete in as little as 10 minutes, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly).

For the eighth site of Social Security, we give to you: *Extra Help* with Medicare prescription drug plan costs. You can learn more and apply online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp).

For the ninth site of Social Security, we give to you: our convenient publication library with online booklets and pamphlets on numerous subjects at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

For the tenth site of Social Security, we give to you: services for people who are currently receiving benefits, such as the ability to replace your Medicare card, request a proof of benefits letter, or check your Social Security information or benefits. You can do these and other things at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/getservices-change.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/getservices-change.htm).

For the eleventh site of Social Security, we give to you: a way to get your Social Security forms online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/online](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online).

On the twelfth site of Social Security, (and we saved the best for last): open your own personal *my Social Security* account, which will enable you to verify your earnings, get future benefit

### **In This Issue:**

12 Sites of Social Security

Definition of Disability

Know Before You Go  
(office closings)

Michigan Webinars

WISE Webinars

New Ticket to Work

estimates, obtain instant benefit verification letters, update your Social Security information, and more at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

And a partridge in a pear tree. Find it all (except the partridge and pear tree) at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

## ***The Social Security Act Defines Disability Very Strictly.***

Eligibility rules for Social Security's disability program differ from those of private plans or other government agencies. Social Security does not provide temporary or partial disability benefits, like workers compensation or veterans' benefits do.

To receive disability benefits, a person must meet the definition of disability under the Social Security Act (Act). A person is disabled under the Act if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year or result in death. The person's medical condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work.

Because the Act defines disability so strictly, Social Security disability beneficiaries are among the most severely impaired in the country. In fact, Social Security disability beneficiaries

are more than three times as likely to die in a year as other people the same age. Among those who start receiving disability benefits at the age of 55, 1-in-5 men and 1-in-7 women die within five years of the onset of their disabilities.

**For more information about the Social Security  
disability program, please visit  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts)**



***my* Social Security**  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount)



- Create a *my Social Security* account, which enables you to:
  - ✓ Obtain an instant, personalized estimate of your future Social Security benefits;
  - ✓ Verify the accuracy of your earnings record—your future benefit amounts are based on your earnings record, so it is important to make sure your earnings are recorded properly;
  - ✓ Change your address and phone number, if you receive monthly Social Security benefits;
  - ✓ Sign up for or change direct deposit of your Social Security benefits; and
  - ✓ Obtain estimates of the Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid;
- Apply for retirement, disability, spouses, and Medicare benefits;
- Check the status of your benefit application;
- Use our benefit planners to help you better understand your Social Security options as you plan for your financial future;
- Request a replacement Medicare card; and
- Apply for *Extra Help* with your Medicare prescription drug plan costs.



# Social Security Webinar Training in 2015

## for our Michigan Disability Advocates

In 2015 we will be offering numerous Social Security training sessions for our Michigan Disability Advocates. Anyone that works with our disability programs will find these webinars helpful. Because these are local webinars with local Social Security employees presenting, you will have the ability to ask questions and obtain important local contact information for further discussion or additional training needs. Below is a description of the first segment.

### **Understanding Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

This webinar will explain the difference between Social Security disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Although both programs are administered by The Social Security Administration, they are not even close to the same thing. From how one qualifies to how one receives benefits, they are different.

If you want a good base regarding the differences between the programs, this is a good first training session.

This will cover entitlement factors for the various benefits as well as explain important details such as the onset date, living arrangement and earnings from working.



You will also learn about the application process from the initial stage to the appeals level and discover valuable online tools and resources available to assist both the public and the advocates.

**If you are interested in this webinar and have not received an invitation, send an email to**

**[Vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:Vonda.vantil@ssa.gov) requesting one.**