

# The Social Security Disability Process

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North Dakota Disability  
Determination Services



# Social Security Disability

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The Social Security Administration (SSA) has the responsibility to administer two disability programs, the Social Security Disability Insurance program (SSDI) and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program

SSDI – Program for individuals who have worked and paid into the Social Security Trust Fund.

SSI – Program for individuals who have limited income and resources. Payments are made from General revenue funds and not Social Security trust funds.



## BY THE NUMBERS



- “ Each year more than 2.5 million people apply for disability benefits.
- “ SSDI and SSI payments currently are made to approximately 10,614,398 disabled individuals and their families.
- “ The average monthly payment received by disabled workers is \$1,111.00

# Disability Determination Services

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## *“ What is DDS?*

- Agency under the North Dakota Department of Human Services that is 100% funded by Social Security Administration

## *“ What is our purpose?*

- To make disability decisions on behalf of disability applicants to SSA

## *“ Why do we exist?*

- Congress specified that state agencies make disability determinations.

# Definition of Disability

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- “ Inability to do any substantial gainful activity
- “ due to a medically determinable physical or mental impairment
- “ which can be expected to result in death or to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months

# Substantial Gainful Activity

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“ *Work activity which:*

- Involves significant and productive physical and mental activities and
- Is performed for pay or profit, \$1740 or more per month for blind individuals, and \$1040 or more per month for disabled individuals.



# The Application Process

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- “ An application for disability benefits is taken by an SSA representative either in person, by mail , by phone or preferably online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)
- “ The claim is sent to the DDS



# Disability Determination

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- “ The DDS is responsible for developing medical and vocational evidence sufficient to make a decision on whether the claimant is or is not disabled.
- “ Claims are assigned to disability analysts who obtains medical, vocational and other evidence for the file.



# Information Requested

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- “ Medical Records
- “ Vocational History
- “ Information from People Named by the Claimant Who Know About the Medical Condition
- “ School Records

- Records are received electronically or by mail
- Analyst reviews medical and vocational information
- May schedule consultative examination
- May call claimant for clarification or additional information



# Medical Consultant Review



- Review records and claimant statements in an electronic file or paper file
- Review Questionnaires by claimant and other sources
- May suggest a consultative examination
- May request that additional medical records be obtained

# Steps used to determine disability



1. Are you working?
2. Is your condition severe?
3. Is your condition found in the list of disabling conditions?
4. Can you do the work you did previously?
5. Can you do any other type of work?

# Appeal Rights if Initial Decision is not Fully Favorable:



- “ Within 60 days of initial notice:
- “ Request a reconsideration on the denial decision
- “ Request a reconsideration on a change in the date of onset

# Types of claims worked by DDS

“Initial applications on Adult and Child claims

“Reconsideration applications on Initial Adult and Child claim denials and Allowances with an Appeal on the Date of Onset

“Continuing Disability Review Claims



# Office of Disability Evaluation and Review– (ODAR) - the Administrative Law Judge



“Appeal after a reconsideration denial of an initial claim

“Appeal after a Disability Hearing Affirmation of a Cessation on a CDR claim

“In North Dakota these claims are sent to ODAR in Fargo

STATE of NORTH DAKOTA

QUESTIONS????

STATE of NORTH DAKOTA