



Families Together, Inc.

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Applying for Social Security Benefits with a Disability?

Guest Author: Deanna Power

Living with a disability can be hard enough without worrying about making ends meet. If your disability is a severe condition that makes it impossible to work and is expected to last for at least a year, applying for Social Security benefits could be the extra assistance you need to live without financial strain. The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers two types of benefits for people with disabilities.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is based on how long you've worked and how much you've paid into Social Security in taxes. Those over the age of 31 typically need to have worked a job that pays into Social Security for any five of the last ten years. SSDI benefits are based on your previous income. Payments start five months after the reported onset date, although some claims can take up to two years to process. In this case, you would be paid for those missed months through a lump-sum check upon approval.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is an income supplement funded by general tax revenue, not Social Security taxes, for those with little to no income. Because of this, it is the best option for children or others without significant work history. SSI benefits can start being paid the first of the month after the onset date, although it does often take a few months for approval. SSI has strict financial limits. Any applicant who owns more than \$2,000 in assets (stocks, bonds, life insurance) will not qualify for SSI benefits.

To apply for disability benefits, you will need a birth certificate, tax information, thorough medical information and other documents. For a complete checklist on what you'll need to apply, review the **Adult Disability Starter Kit** on the SSA's website.

To apply for a child under the age of 18, first review the **Child Disability Starter Kit** for answers to common questions and a checklist of

necessary information. To prepare for the application, complete the **Child Disability Report** online, making sure to give your child's doctor permission to release information about the disability to the SSA. Unlike SSDI applications, SSI applications must be completed in person, so be sure to make an appointment with your **local SSA office**.

Once you are approved for SSDI, you are automatically eligible for Medicare Part A two years after you begin receiving benefits. SSI applicants can receive Medicaid, not Medicare. In most states, the SSI and Medicaid applications are the same and Medicaid starts when SSI does. More information can be found on states that do not include Medicaid benefits with an SSI approval here: www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/medicaid.htm.

If you have already applied for either program and your application was denied, you can appeal the decision. If you were denied for medical reasons, you can fill out the **Appeal Request and Appeal Disability Report** or contact your local Social Security office in person or 1-800-772-1213 or 1-800-325-0778 for TTY.

¿Solicitando para los beneficios del Seguro Social con una discapacidad?

Autor Invitado: Deanna Power

Vivir con una discapacidad puede ser bastante difícil sin tener que preocuparse de no poder cumplir con los gastos del mes. Si su discapacidad es una condición grave que no le permite trabajar y espera que dure por lo menos un año, solicitar los beneficios del Seguro Social podría ser la ayuda extra que necesita para vivir sin la tensión financiera. La Administración del Seguro Social (SSA, por sus siglas en Inglés) ofrece dos tipos de beneficios para personas con discapacidades.

Seguro de Discapacidad del Seguro Social (SSDI, Siglas en Inglés) está basado en cuanto usted ha trabajado y cuánto usted ha pagado al Seguro Social en impuestos. Personas de más de 31 años normalmente necesitan haber trabajado por lo menos 5 años de los últimos 10 años en un trabajo que ha pagado impuestos al seguro social. Beneficios de SSDI se basan en su ingreso anterior. Los pagos comienzan cinco meses después de la fecha que fueron reportados, aunque algunas reclamaciones pueden tomar hasta dos años para procesar. En este caso se le pagará la suma por esos meses perdidos a través de un cheque para saldar la cantidad después de la aprobación.

Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI, Siglas en Inglés) es un suplemento de ingresos financiado por impuestos fiscales generales, no impuestos del Seguro Social, para aquellos que tengan poco o nada de ingresos. Debido a esto, es la mejor opción para los niños u otras personas sin historial de trabajo significativo. Beneficios de SSI pueden comenzar a pagarse el primer día del mes después de la fecha de inicio, aunque a menudo se tarda unos meses para su aprobación. SSI tiene límites financieros estrictos. Cualquier solicitante que posee más de \$2.000 en activos (acciones, bonos, seguro de vida) no tendrá derecho a beneficios de SSI.

Para solicitar beneficios por la discapacidad, usted necesitará un certificado de nacimiento, información de impuestos, información médica completa y otros documentos. Para una lista completa de lo que necesitará para aplicar, revise el Kit en el *sitio web* del SSA.

Para aplicar para un niño menor de 18 años, primero revise "Niño" para respuestas a preguntas comunes y una lista de información necesaria. Para prepararse para la aplicación, llene el **Reporte de discapacidad infantil** en línea, asegurándose de dar permiso al médico de su hijo para revelar información acerca de la discapacidad al SSA. A diferencia del SSDI, las aplicaciones de SSI deben cumplirse en persona, así que asegúrese de hacer una cita con su oficina **local del SSA**.

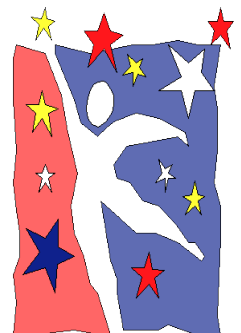
Una vez aprobada para SSDI, usted es automáticamente elegible para Medicare parte A, dos años después de estar recibiendo beneficios. Los solicitantes de SSI pueden recibir Medicaid, no Medicare. En la mayoría de los estados, las aplicaciones de SSI y Medicaid son iguales y el Medicaid comienza al mismo tiempo que SSI. Más información se puede encontrar sobre los estados que no incluyen beneficios de Medicaid con una aprobación del SSI aquí:

<http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wimedicaid.htm>.

Si ya ha solicitado cualquiera de los programas y se le negó su solicitud, puede apelar la decisión. Si se les negó por razones médicas, puede llenar la Solicitud de **Apelación y el Reporte de Apelación de Discapacidad** o póngase en contacto con su oficina local del Seguro Social en persona o llame: 1-800-772-1213 o 1-800-325-0778 para TTY.

Education Advocate Update

Just a quick reminder that the first nine weeks have come and gone. That means grade cards and progress notes have been sent to parents. As the education advocate, you have the right (and responsibility) to be informed of your child's progress or lack thereof. If you did not receive these important documents, please call and make a request for those today. As always, we thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of Kansas children!



Family Story



To Matt's team,

Hi! I am Matt's brother, John David. I am 1 year older than him. This letter is going to be about my life with Matt. I am writing this letter because I cannot be here but if I could, I would.

My life with Matt can be hard at times. For example, Matt likes Legos a lot and he will do just about anything to get his hands on them and once he gets his hands on them he will chew them up and flush them down the toilet! Sometimes, I have to sit in the "Lego room" so he can play with his own Legos. When he comes out, I have to make sure that he has only a few little Legos that are able to go down the toilet. He will also try to steal me and my brother's Legos.

Another example is that Matt likes to watch movies. His favorites are Toy Story, Blue's Clues, and Up. He watches them all the time on his iPad and he will watch 1 part over and over and over. He will make his special happy noises whenever he watches them.

My main example is that Matt likes to run. He will wait until you aren't looking and then bolt off. That is why whenever I get Matt off the bus I have to hold his hand so he doesn't run. At the store, he either has to hold on to the cart or ride in the "car cart". When my family and I are at the park, we have to keep a careful eye on him. He will also try to run across the street as he has done in the past.

I care about Matt. I do not want him to run across the street and get killed by an oncoming car just because he went to the wrong school. Matt cannot be purchased or bought at the store. Matt is just as important as any of us that are here today and he deserves to go to the school that he needs. Think about the troubles that you have in life and compare them to Matt's and think about how you would want to deal with them.

John David Bergman



Save the date ...

for our *Together We Can Learn* statewide conference featuring **Stephen Hinkle** and **Dr. Sean Smith!** Watch our website and Facebook page for more details soon.

April 9, 2016
Wichita, KS

From the Director's Desk

Families and Appointed Advocates:

Thank You!

In this season of thankfulness, the Board of Directors and staff of Families Together thank each of you who have volunteered, made a financial gift or signed up to make our organization a recipient of a community fund. Because of those donations, our staff is able to be at the phone to assist families when they call and to make presentations in communities across the state.

If you would like to help further, please call one of our offices. We would love to have you as part of our family of donors and volunteers. Here are three ways to assist that will only take you about **15 minutes** at the most:

Dillons Reward Program

Just visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards

Click "Enroll Now" and enter **Families Together Inc.** (5 digit NPO – 10544)

You shop. Amazon gives.

Support Families Together, Inc. by starting your shopping at www.smile.amazon.com. Be sure to choose **Families Together Inc. - Wichita.**

Begin your online shopping with Good Search

Go to www.goodsearch.com and click "Join now" button in the top right hand corner. Type in **Families Together, Inc.** On the next screen, choose **Families Together - Wichita.**

Best Wishes for a blessed Holiday season.

Connie

Families Make the Difference

Families Together, Inc. founded in 1982, serves as the Parent Training and Information Center and Family to Family Health Information Center for Kansas and provides opportunities for families to come together and meet other families who are navigating the special education and disability services maze. Each year, Families Together, Inc. provides, without fees, direct support to thousands of Kansas families. In addition, through workshops, conferences and partnerships with state, local and national organizations, Families Together provides training to nearly 4,000 families and professionals working with children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs.

Garden City Center 1-888-820-6364

gardencity@familiesTogetherinc.org

Topeka Center 1-800-264-6343

topeka@familiesTogetherinc.org

Wichita Center 1-888-815-6364

wichita@familiesTogetherinc.org

www.familiesTogetherinc.org

Calendar of Events

Check our website for added events or visit our Facebook page!

February 4, 2016	Education Advocate Training , Leavenworth
February 6, 2016	Family Employment Awareness Training Part 1 Dodge City
February 19, 2016	Family Employment Awareness Training Part 2 Dodge City
Feb 26-27, 2016	Family Enrichment Weekend , Topeka
March 5, 2016	Team Empowerment Conference , Garden City
April 9, 2016	Statewide Conference , Wichita
April 21, 2016	Education Advocate Training , Wichita

Return Service Requested

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