

Division of Disability Determination

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is the state agency that empowers Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations, and independence. It is accomplished through its Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI), and Division of Disability Determination (DDD). A fourth area is the Division of Employer and Innovation Services (EIS), which is responsible for establishing and maintaining partnerships with employers. OOD works with partners in businesses, education and non-profit organizations to facilitate customized employment plans for Ohioans with disabilities; helps Ohio companies recruit and retain employees with disabilities; and is the sole agency determining medical and vocational Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs in Ohio.

Division of Disability Determination

The Division of Disability Determination (DDD), in agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), determines medical eligibility for Ohioans who apply for Social Security disability benefits. DDD is federally regulated and receives 100% of its funding from SSA. Under SSA, disability is based on an individual's inability to work.

Disability Benefits Include

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is financed with Social Security taxes paid by workers, employers and self-employed persons. SSDI benefits are payable to workers who are disabled, their children, widows(ers) and adults disabled since childhood. The amount of the monthly disability benefit is based on the Social Security earnings record of the insured worker. The worker will get Medicare coverage automatically after receiving disability benefits for two years.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is financed through general revenue funds from taxes, meaning benefits are not based on prior work history. The SSI program pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. People who have worked long enough may also be able to receive Social Security disability or retirement benefits as well as SSI.

Eligibility

DDD, using SSA requirements, may consider a claimant disabled if they have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which:

- Results in the inability to do any substantial gainful activity
- Has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or is expected to result in death

Applying for Disability Benefits

Ohioans with disabilities, who are under retirement age, can apply for SSDI or SSI benefits through SSA. Children under 18 can apply for and receive Children's SSI benefits with separate eligibility requirements. To apply for benefits or for more information, visit a local SSA office, go to the Social Security's disability program website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability, or call SSA's toll-free number, 800-772-1213; 800-325-0778 TTY.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

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