

# Michigan Updates

A Social Security Newsletter highlighting Social Security Disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

**Social Security is with you throughout life's journey**

**June 2017**

## Employment Tools for Veterans with Disabilities

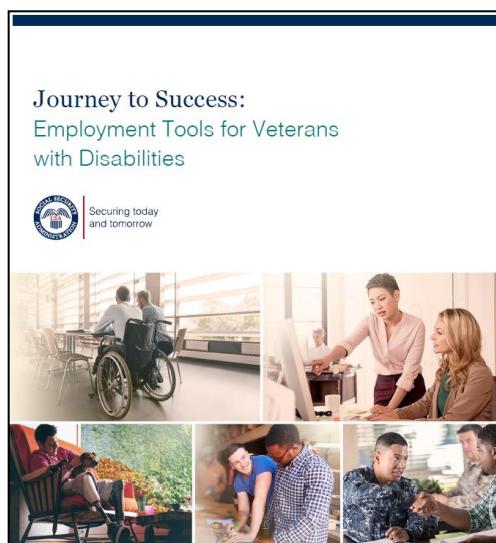
Check out Social Security's publication: Journey to Success: Employment Tools for Veterans with Disabilities at

<https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/materials/pdfs/JourneyToSuccess.pdf>

Military Veterans bring experience and skills of great value to the workforce. This publication describes services that help Veterans with a disability enter the workforce and find fulfilling employment. Some of the services are open only to Veterans but many are available to any American with a disability.

To learn about the many Social Security programs and services available to support Veterans and Wounded Warriors, go to the Social Security Veterans page at <https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/>.

Most importantly, if your agency works with Veterans and are interested in receiving some in-service training on the Social Security programs and services for Veterans, please contact Vonda VanTil at [vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov).



# JOB ACCOMMODATIONS

By: Hillary Kanady, Area Work Incentive Coordinator

Did you know that people with disabilities who have disclosed their disability to their employer are ensured reasonable accommodations by their employers under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? “Reasonable accommodations” means adapting the job site or job functions for a qualified person with a disability to enable the individual to enjoy equal employment opportunities.

An employer can modify the work site or the job itself; both are considered accommodations. Examples of accommodations an employer might make include allowing flexible work schedules, acquiring or modifying equipment and making existing facilities accessible.

Job accommodations can vary from employer to employer and individual to individual. If help is needed in determining how to discuss and receive job accommodations, consider these resource links from SSA's [Choose Work](#) website:

- [Service Providers](#)— many Employment Networks (ENs) and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies (VRs) offer assistance in requesting and arranging job accommodations with an employer.
- [Job Accommodations Network \(JAN\)](#) – JAN is an organization that offers consultation and support in arranging job accommodations between employers and employees.
- [ADA's Guide to Employment](#) – learn more about the benefits, support, and protections offered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- [PABSS](#) – Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security organizations may represent eligible beneficiaries to remove barriers precluding successful employment including understanding and protecting rights, responsibilities, and reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act

Beneficiaries can get connected with job search resources and special hiring programs for individuals with disabilities through the [Ticket to Work](#) program. The Ticket program service provider can give beneficiaries the support needed to make the job search a success! To get started visit [www.choosework.net](http://www.choosework.net) or call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 where experts are available Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 8 PM EST.

*Hillary Kanady is the Area Work Incentive Coordinator for Social Security located in Grand Rapids MI. If you have a client that you are assisting with returning to work and have questions or you have an event or training need, contact Hillary Kanady at [hillary.kanady@ssa.gov](mailto:hillary.kanady@ssa.gov)*

# Social Security Supports

## National Cancer Survivors Day

In 2017, more than a million people will be diagnosed with cancer around the world. This alarming statistic affects people and families everywhere. Chances are you know someone affected by this terrible disease.

On June 4, we observe National Cancer Survivors Day in the United States. In support of this day, Social Security encourages getting checkups to provide early detection, raise awareness through education, and recognize the survivors who have gone through this battle or are still living with the disease.

Social Security stands strong in our support of the fight against cancer. We offer services to patients dealing with this disease through our disability insurance program and our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are cases with medical conditions so severe they obviously meet Social Security's disability standards, allowing us to process the cases quickly with minimal medical information. Many cancers are part of our Compassionate Allowances list.



There's no special application or form you need to submit for Compassionate Allowances. Simply apply for disability benefits online, in-person or over the phone. Once we identify you as having a Compassionate Allowances condition, we'll expedite your disability application.

Social Security establishes Compassionate Allowances conditions using information received at public outreach hearings, from our employees, who review millions of disability cases each year, from medical and scientific experts, and from data based on our research. For more information about Compassionate Allowances, including the list of eligible conditions, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances).

Social Security is with you throughout life's journey, through good times and bad. Please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) for more information.





### Frequently Asked Questions

[www.socialsecurity.gov/faq](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/faq)

*Q. Can I get Social Security disability benefits for any months before I apply?*

We may pay Social Security disability benefits for as many as 12 months before you apply if we find you had disability during that time and you meet all of the other requirements.

If you think you may be eligible to receive disability benefits and would like to apply, you can use our [online application](#).

Applying online for disability benefits offers several advantages:

- You can start your disability claim immediately. There is no need to wait for an appointment;
- You can apply from the convenience of your home, or on any computer; and
- You can avoid trips to a Social Security office, saving you time and money.

Other ways to apply:

- Call **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)**, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; or
- Contact [your local Social Security office](#).

## Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates, or if you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to  
[vonda.vantil@ssa.gov](mailto:vonda.vantil@ssa.gov)