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

Michigan Updates

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

October 2017

2.0 Percent Benefit Increase for 2018

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 66 million Americans will increase 2.0 percent in 2018, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 2.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 61 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2018. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 29, 2017. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits) The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$128,700 from \$127,200. Of the estimated 175 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2018, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2018, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

See the 2018 Fact Sheet for all of the Social Security Changes:
<https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2018.pdf>

**More than 66 million
Americans will receive a
2.0 percent increase in
their Social Security and
SSI benefits in 2018.**



Learn more at ssa.gov/cola

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The Social Security Disability Webinar Series is Back!



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

We are offering this webinar on two different dates/times for your convenience. Please register for the date and time that works best for you.

The two options that will appear in the drop down box after clicking on the link to register are:

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST

Thursday, November 30, 2017 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Register now!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7808567039396177411>

This webinar will explain the difference between Social Security disability (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Although Social Security administers both programs, 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.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

FREE
Webinars



Securing today
and tomorrow



Request for Information on Potential Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Demonstration Projects

Social Security and the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy are [seeking public input](#) for Information on Potential Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Demonstration Projects.

Through this research, we hope to identify effective strategies for supporting workers who want and are able to keep working while living with a disability.

Specifically, we are asking for recommendations on the early intervention strategies to be tested (to promote labor force attachment, coordinate employment and health services, and support injured and ill workers in returning to and remaining at work) and on the design of a potential demonstration.

This notice builds on Social Security's "Request for Information on Strategies for Improving Work Outcomes for Individuals with Musculoskeletal Disabilities" last year, for which many of you submitted comments. We appreciate your input and encourage all interested parties to respond to the current notice.

Please read the [Federal Register notice](#) to learn more. The notice includes the questions we want help with answering and instructions for submitting your comments by Internet, fax, or mail. It also provides contact details for the Department of Labor in case you need further information. Comments are due no later than **October 30, 2017**. We also encourage you to share this notice with others who may be interested.

SAVE THE DATE National Disability Forum

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Partnership for Public Service -- Washington D.C.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST

Washington, DC

To learn more about the National Disability Forum, visit us at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/ndf/>



Securing today
and tomorrow

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Customer Service and Public Engagement
Directorate (MS 2260)
Washington, DC 20529



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

Teleconference Invitation

Revised Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization

Stakeholder Engagement

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017 from 2 to 3 p.m. (Eastern)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) invite you to participate in a stakeholder teleconference on **Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 2 to 3 p.m. (Eastern)**, to discuss the revised USCIS [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#). As of Oct. 2, 2017, Form I-765 applicants will have the option to apply for a Social Security number (SSN) at the same time they apply for employment authorization or for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). SSA estimates this will reduce visits to their offices by almost 400,000 annually.

During this session, representatives from USCIS and SSA will review the updates made to the form, provide an overview of the process of obtaining a SSN, and answer your questions.

To register, please follow these steps:

- Visit our [registration page](#).
- Enter your email address and select "Submit."
- Select "Subscriber Preferences."
- Select the "Event Registration" tab.
- Provide your full name and organization, if any.
- Complete the questions and select "Submit."

If you have any questions regarding the registration process, or if you have not received a confirmation email within two business days, please email uscis-igaoutreach@uscis.dhs.gov.

Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates, or if you would like to unsubscribe, please send an email to vonda.vantil@ssa.gov