



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**

September 2017

Compassionate Allowances List Grows

Social Security recently announced three new Compassionate Allowances conditions: CACH--Vanishing White Matter Disease-Infantile and Childhood Onset Forms, Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy, and Kleeftstra Syndrome. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify serious diseases and other medical conditions that meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits.

The Compassionate Allowances program identifies claims where the applicant's disease or condition clearly meets Social Security's statutory standard for disability. Many of these claims are allowed based on medical confirmation of the diagnosis alone, for example pancreatic cancer, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and acute leukemia. To date, almost 500,000 people with severe disabilities have been approved through this fast-track policy-compliant disability process, which has grown to a total of 228 conditions.

By incorporating cutting-edge technology, the agency can easily identify potential Compassionate Allowances and quickly make decisions. For other disability cases not covered by the Compassionate Allowances program, Social Security's Health IT program brings the speed and efficiency of electronic medical records to the disability determination process. When a person applies for disability benefits, Social Security must obtain medical records in order to make an accurate determination. It may take weeks for health care organizations to provide records for the applicant's case. With electronic records transmission, Social Security is able to quickly obtain a claimant's medical information, review it, and make a determination faster than ever before.

For more information about the program, including a list of all Compassionate Allowances conditions, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/.

To learn more about Social Security's Health IT program, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/hit.

People may apply online for disability benefits by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/.

To create a **my Social Security** account, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/.



Securing today
and tomorrow

What You Need to Know About SSI when Turning 18

By: Hillary Kanady, Area Work Incentive Coordinator

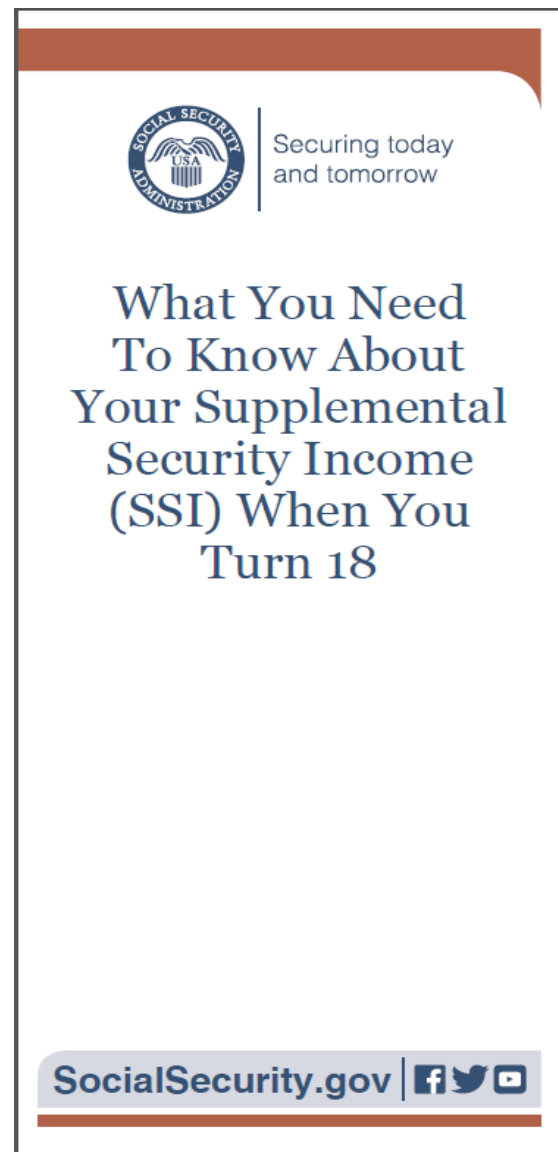
Beginning in August, Social Security began mailing notices with our new informational publication, [What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) When You Turn 18](#), to more than 370,000 SSI beneficiaries between the ages of 14 and 17 and their adult representatives. These mailings include a letter introducing the brochure and encouraging caregivers to review it with the child, if possible.

This publication is for youth who receive SSI — along with their parents, teachers, health providers, caregivers, or representatives — to help them prepare for the transition from school to adult life. It is also available in [Spanish](#).

There are many services and supports available as the child prepares to transition to higher education and employment. This booklet will help identify those supports as well as other federal and state agencies to help prepare the child for a successful transition to adulthood.

Please help us promote this valuable new resource through your networks, including foster care and youth transition programs.

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



How to Get Proof of Social Security Numbers or Benefits

Are you an agency or organization that often requires proof of a Social Security Number?

Because Social Security number printouts are not official documents with security features, and are easily misused or counterfeited, Social Security eliminated the printouts to help prevent identity theft. A Social Security card is legal proof of one's Social Security number. Therefore, if you require proof of someone's Social Security number, and they can't produce a card, they will need a replacement card. To get a replacement card, they will need to complete an Application for a Social Security Card and provide original documents. For details on what they will need to do and provide, they can go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Michigan residents have the option of filing for a replacement Social Security card online in their **my Social Security** account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Are you an agency or organization that often requires proof of a Social Security Benefit?

Back in January of 2013, Social Security made benefit verifications available online. Now the public can customize and obtain an instant verification letter online in their **my Social Security** account, or they may call us toll-free to request a letter by mail.

A benefit verification letter can state the following:

- Your client never received Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicare; or
- Your client received benefits in the past, but does not currently receive them. (The letter will even include the date their benefits stopped and how much they received); or
- Your client applied for benefits but hasn't received an answer yet.

Keep in mind that even individuals that have a representative payee can obtain a benefit verification letter as long as they have a **my Social Security** account.

The image shows a screenshot of the Social Security Administration's online verification letter tool. At the top, there's a section titled 'Customize your letter' with a sub-header 'Include information about:'. Below this, there are four checkboxes, all of which are checked: 'Current & Past Benefit Amounts', 'Type of Benefit(s)', 'Date of Birth', and 'Medicare Entitlement'. At the bottom of this section are two buttons: 'Apply to Letter' and 'Cancel'.

Below the customization section is a sample verification letter. It features the Social Security Administration logo and the text 'Social Security Administration'. The letter is dated 'May 10, 2017' and includes a 'Claim Number: XXX-XX-2204A' and a 'XXX-XX-0100B'. The letter is addressed to 'PATRICIA A TOBIN, 45 PLEASANT ST APT 6, RUTLAND VT 05701-5010'. The letter states: 'You asked us for information from your record. The information that you requested is shown below. If you want anyone else to have this information, you may send them this letter.' It then provides 'Information About Current Social Security Benefits', stating that 'Beginning December 2016, the full monthly Social Security benefit before any deductions is \$460.70.' It also mentions 'We deduct \$0.00 for medical insurance premiums each month.' and 'The regular monthly Social Security payment is \$460.00. (We must round down to the whole dollar.)'. It further explains that 'Social Security benefits for a given month are paid the following month. (For example, Social Security benefits for March are paid in April.)' and 'Your Social Security benefits are paid on or about the third of each month.' Finally, it provides 'Information About Past Social Security Benefits', stating that 'From December 2014 to November 2016, the full monthly Social Security benefit before any deductions was \$459.40.'

Medicare Coverage if Disabled

Social Security automatically enrolls individuals in Medicare after they receive disability benefits for two years. They are enrolled in two parts of Medicare – Part A (Hospital insurance) and Part B (Medical insurance).

- **Hospital insurance** (Part A) helps pay for inpatient hospital bills and some follow-up care. The taxes paid while working finance this coverage, so it is free.
- **Medical insurance** (Part B) helps pay doctors' bills, outpatient hospital care and other medical services. Those on Part B pay a monthly premium for this coverage.

Most people have both parts of Medicare. For questions about this coverage, contact Medicare toll-free at **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227) to speak to a Medicare Customer Service Representative. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

CMS Reveals New Medicare Card Design

Removing Social Security numbers strengthens fraud protections for about 58 million Americans

The new Medicare card contains a unique, randomly assigned number that replaces the current Social Security-based number.

CMS will begin mailing the new cards to people with Medicare benefits in April 2018 to meet the statutory deadline for replacing all existing Medicare cards by April 2019.



CMS has assigned all people with Medicare benefits a new, unique Medicare number, which contains a combination of numbers and uppercase letters. People with Medicare will receive a new Medicare card in the mail, and will be instructed to safely and securely destroy their current Medicare card and keep their new Medicare number confidential. Issuance of the new number will not change benefits that people with Medicare receive.

For more information, please visit: www.cms.gov/newcard

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