



Securing today
and tomorrow



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**

February 2018



Securing today
and tomorrow

New Disability Research Projects for 2018

We are pleased to share information about two new demonstration projects we are pursuing in 2018. These research projects allow us to study ways to improve services to current and future disability beneficiaries.

The Promoting Opportunity Demonstration (POD) project is a voluntary program for Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries who work or want to work and live in certain regions of Alabama, California, Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, Texas and Vermont. The project will give working beneficiaries a chance to keep more benefits and potentially increase their total income while using a simpler approach to reporting their earnings. More information about the Promoting Opportunity Demonstration project is available [here](#). (See article by Hillary Kanady on page 2 for more on this.)

The Supported Employment Demonstration (SED) project provides employment and behavioral health interventions services to disability program applicants who recently received an initial denial decision. We will recruit this target group for voluntary participation in 20 states: California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. More information about the Supported Employment Demonstration is available [here](#).

What is the Promoting Opportunity Demonstration (POD)?

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is contracting with Mathematica Policy Research and Abt Associates to conduct a new study called POD for beneficiaries who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). If your client works or wants to work, they might find POD attractive because it uses new rules to adjust benefits for earnings and impairment related work expenses (IRWEs), potentially allowing the SSDI beneficiary to keep more of their benefits. POD also uses simpler rules for reporting earnings to SSA. SSA will randomly assign SSDI beneficiaries who volunteer for POD into one of three groups. Beneficiaries assigned to the two new POD rules groups will be eligible for the POD benefit adjustment and the simpler rules for reporting earnings. Beneficiaries assigned to the SSA current rules group will follow SSA's current rules just like they did before agreeing to participate in POD.

New POD rules

The new POD rules will allow your clients to keep some of their benefits when their earnings are high enough that they would otherwise lose benefits under current SSA rules. If they discover that current SSA rules are better for them, they can switch back at any time.

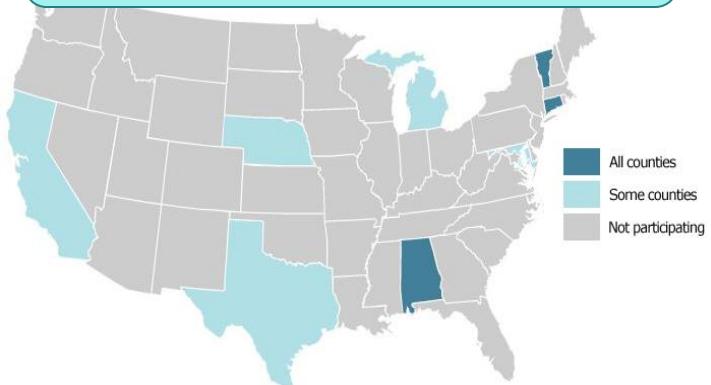
An SSDI beneficiary could benefit from new POD rules if they plan to regularly earn more than \$1,200 a month for longer than a year. If blind, they could benefit from POD if they plan to regularly earn more than \$2,000 a month for longer than a year.

See [Understanding the new POD rules](#) and [How earnings from work affect benefits](#) or call the POD call center at 1-888-771-9188 and choose option 1 to learn more about how the new POD rules could affect your clients benefits.

The enrollment began in January 2018 and the project will continue to enroll beneficiaries through December 2018. The project ends June 2021.

Eligible SSDI beneficiaries will receive a mailing inviting them to participate in POD.

Is my state and county participating?



Learn more about how POD works, how to participate and what counties are participating

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/pod.htm>

<http://podssa.org/>

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

Can't find that SSA-1099 that just arrived in the mail?

No problem.

The SSA-1099 or the SSA-1042S, also known as the Benefit Statement, is available online. Now our beneficiaries have the ability to download it anytime and anywhere using our online services. There's no need to visit a field office.

For those that live in the United States and need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, they simply go online and request an instant, printable replacement form within their *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.



<https://faq.ssa.gov/link/portal/34011/34019/Article/3706/How-can-I-get-a-form-SSA-1099-1042S-Social-Security-Benefit-Statement>

Need to file for disability but don't know where to start?

No problem.

Apply Online for Disability Benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability/

There are four steps in the Online Disability Application Process:

- Provide Background Information,
- Provide Disability Information,
- Sign Medical Release, and
- Confirmation.

It may take between one to two hours to complete all the steps in the application process.

Each step must be completed before moving on to the next step. All the steps do not need to be completed at once.

<https://faq.ssa.gov/link/portal/34011/34019/Article/3718/How-do-I-apply-for-Social-Security-disability-benefits>

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