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Social Security Disability Benefits

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program.

[Social Security Disability Insurance](#) pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

[Supplemental Security Income](#) pays benefits based on financial need.

When you apply for either program, we will collect medical and other information from you and make a decision about whether or not you meet [Social Security's definition of disability](#).

Use the [Benefits Eligibility Screening Tool](#) to find out which programs may be able to pay you benefits.

If your application has recently been denied, the [Internet Appeal](#) is a starting point to request a review of our decision about your eligibility for disability benefits.

If your application is denied for:

- Medical reasons, you can complete and submit the required [Appeal Request and Appeal Disability Report](#) online.
- The disability report asks you for updated information about your medical condition and any treatment, tests or doctor visits since we made our decision.
- Non-medical reasons, you should [contact your local Social Security Office](#) to request the review. You also may call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, to request an appeal. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can call our toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

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Social Security Administration

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