

The Disability Report 2024



DISABILITY
ATTORNEYS OF
MICHIGAN™



Introduction

As Michigan Disability Lawyers, we know that a disability can take many forms. Whether mental or physical, visible or hidden, a disability can easily disrupt someone's life.

When it puts them out of work, they may worry about how they can support themselves and their household. Unfortunately, this stress is compounded by the complex, confusing disability claims process.

Getting the help you need should not be complicated.

That's why we've created The Disability Report to provide you with the latest news and insights surrounding Social Security Disability Benefits. In addition, we have provided helpful and interactive resources, including blogs and videos, to help put you on the path to life-changing benefits.

At Disability Attorneys of Michigan, we have dedicated our entire careers solely to helping those win the benefits that they deserve. We're here to educate and empower those embarking on the disability claims process, and we hope you find this report a helpful resource.



Samantha J. Ball



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Disability Attorneys of Michigan





01

2025

Cost-of-Living
Adjustment

The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for
2025 is 2.5%

SSD benefits will increase by an average of **\$38** per month.

*Example: average amount from **\$1,542 to \$1,580.***

SSI maximum will increase to **\$967** per month, for individuals and **\$1,450** per month for couples.



02

Wait Times
Decreased in
2024

Your wait time will be determined by which level your benefits are awarded at.

The average wait for a hearing decision in 2024 is **342** days, which is a *decrease* from the 450-day wait in 2023.

SSA has set a goal for end of 2025 to reduce the initial claim processing time to 7 months on average.

In the 3rd Quarter of 2024, approximately 492,000 new claims were submitted while over 177,000 people were awarded benefits.

This is a 20% increase over the previous period.



03

While Sometimes Necessary,
Appealing Can
Add Time.

After a denial, there are four opportunities to appeal the decision. They are:

Reconsideration

At the Disability Determination Services (DDS) Office

A Hearing

In front of an Administrative Law Judge

A Review

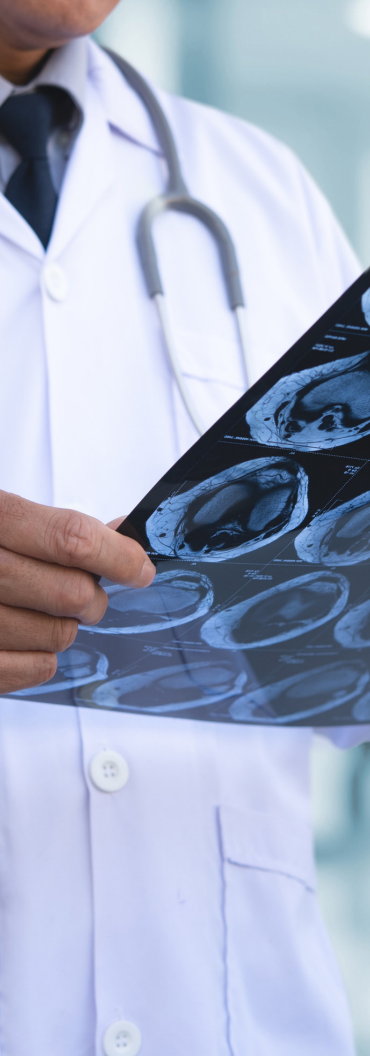
With the SSA's Appeals Council

Filing

An Action with the Federal District Court

These steps must be completed in the order above

Appealing a decision will affect your wait time as each level has a different timeframe associated with it.



04

9 New Compassionate Allowances Conditions

The list of conditions for Compassionate Allowances has been expanded for 2024.

The Compassionate Allowances initiative allows the SSA to reduce approval waiting times for those with the most severe disabilities.

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01. Adult Heart Transplant Wait List – Status Levels 1-4
 02. Bainbridge-Ropers Syndrome
 03. Costello Syndrome
 04. Histiocytic Malignancies
 05. Neonatal Marfan Syndrome
 06. PACS1 Syndrome
 07. Plasmablastic Lymphoma
 08. Renal Medullary Carcinoma
 09. Snijders Blok-Campeau Syndrome
-

Social Security Disability Benefits 2024

Total Beneficiaries

8,366,000

Disabled Workers

7,277,000

Average monthly payment: **\$1,530.00**

Spouses of
Disabled Workers

87,000

Average monthly payment: **\$421.58**

Children of
Disabled Workers

1,003,000

Average monthly payment: **\$492.03**

Supplemental Security Income Benefits 2024

Total Beneficiaries

7,400,000

Under 18

985,000

Average monthly payment: **\$820.70**

Aged 18-64

3,971,000

Average monthly payment: **\$744.41**

Aged 65 or older

2,444,000

Average monthly payment: **\$575.07**

Educational Resources



Disability Decoded Video Series

This video series addresses common questions about the Social Security Disability application and claim process. Get answers to questions like “How long should I wait to apply for benefits” and “What should I look for in an SSD lawyer” among others.

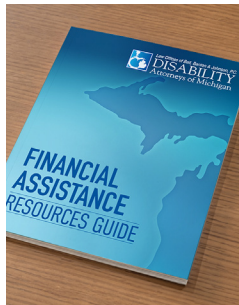
[WATCH NOW](#)



What to Know About the Past Relevant Work Rule Change

This year, the Social Security Administration has reduced the Past Relevant Work period from 15 years to 5 years. Find out what this means for new applicants in our blog.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Michigan Financial Assistance Resources Guide

This e-book provides information about resources that can help if you're in need of financial assistance. From community housing to utility assistance and more, this guide will help you access the assistance you need.

[LEARN MORE](#)



2025 COLA Announcement

The SSA announced that the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2025 is 2.5%. This boost in monthly benefits will begin in January 2025.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Navigating Your Child's Disability

Read our guide to get valuable information about eligibility, how to apply on behalf of your child, how the claim and approval processes work, and family resources.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Family Member Benefits

If you qualify for benefits, your dependents may also be able to receive a separate monthly payment. Get more information about how family benefits work and who qualifies in our video.

[WATCH NOW](#)

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