



The Disability Report 2025

INTRODUCTION

As Michigan Disability Lawyers, we've seen firsthand how a disability can impact someone's life. When someone loses their ability to work, they may begin to worry about how to support their household.

This stress is unfortunately compounded by the complex, confusing disability claims process. That's why it is essential to be educated about disability benefits and your options.

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 approval.



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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01

2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustment



The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2026 is

2.8%

SSD benefits will increase by an average of **\$44** per month.

Example:

*Average amount from **\$1,586** to **\$1,630**.*

SSI maximum will increase to **\$994** per month, for individuals and **\$1,491** per month for couples.

02

While
Sometimes
Necessary,
Appealing
Can Add Time



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

1. **Reconsideration** at the Disability Determination Services (DDS) office
2. **A hearing** in front of an Administrative Law Judge
3. **A review** with the SSA's Appeals Council
4. **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.

03

13 New Compassionate Allowances Conditions

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

The list of conditions for Compassionate Allowances has been expanded in 2025.

Au-Kline Syndrome – A rare genetic disorder causing developmental delays and multiple congenital anomalies.

Bilateral Anophthalmia – Absence of both eyes, resulting in blindness at birth.

Carey-Fineman-Ziter Syndrome – A congenital disorder leading to facial weakness, scoliosis, and respiratory problems.

Harlequin Ichthyosis (Child) – A life-threatening genetic skin condition affecting newborns.

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation – A high-risk procedure used to treat serious blood and immune disorders.

LMNA-related Congenital Muscular Dystrophy – A progressive muscle-wasting disease affecting mobility and cardiac function.

Progressive Muscular Atrophy – A rare neurological disease similar to ALS that causes muscle weakness and wasting.

Pulmonary Amyloidosis – AL Type – Caused by abnormal protein buildup in the lungs, leading to respiratory failure.

Rasmussen Encephalitis – A rare neurological disease that leads to chronic seizures and progressive brain damage.

Thymic Carcinoma – A rare and aggressive cancer of the thymus gland.

Turnpenny-Fry Syndrome – A developmental disorder characterized by intellectual disability and growth delays.

WHO Grade III Meningiomas – Malignant brain tumors with aggressive growth and recurrence.

Zhu-Tokita-Takenouchi-Kim Syndrome – A severe genetic disorder causing multiple developmental and medical complications.

04

2025 Benefits at a Glance



Social Security Benefits in 2025 *

8,113 total beneficiaries

7,081,000 disabled workers

Average monthly payment: \$1,582.95

87,000 spouses of disabled workers

Average monthly payment: \$445.71

946,000 children of disabled workers

Average monthly payment: \$509.70

Supplemental Security Income Benefits in 2025*

7,405,000 total beneficiaries

1,011,000 under 18

Average monthly payment: \$847.21

3,897,000 Aged 18-64

Average monthly payment: \$764.04

2,497,000 Aged 65 or older

Average monthly payment: \$594.26

**Source: Social Security Administration*

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



SSD Appeals Process Infographic

After a denial, the appeals process can feel confusing and puzzling. Learn about the pathways that are taken through the appeals process with our infographic.

LEARN MORE



Guide to Local Assistance Resources in Michigan

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

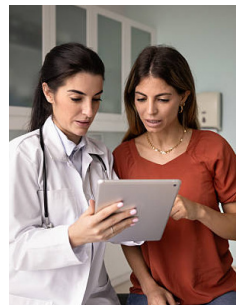
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2026 COLA Announcement

The SSA announced that the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2026 is 2.8%. This boost in monthly benefits will begin in January 2026.

LEARN MORE



Disability Benefits and Healthcare Access

Read our blog to learn about healthcare benefits that may be available to you if you're receiving disability benefits.

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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