



Michigan Updates

A Social Security Newsletter on Employment Support Updates

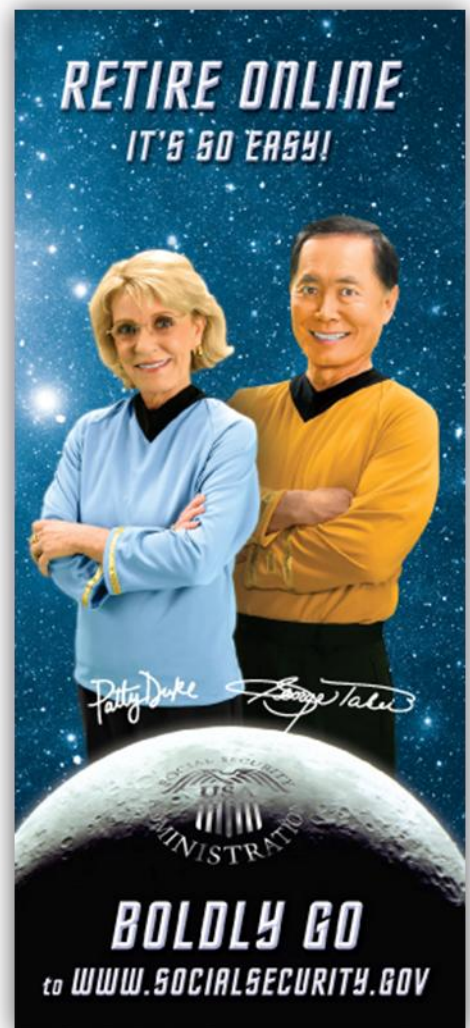
Issue 79

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Entertainment icons George Takei and Patty Duke have teamed up to tell Americans to Boldly Go to www.socialsecurity.gov to apply for retirement, disability, Medicare, and so much more. The two celebrities are joining forces in a new campaign to help the Social Security Administration promote its online services as an easy and secure way for people to do business with the agency. Check them out on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/socialsecurityonline>



Register online for April 27 Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE) Webinar

Thousands of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries have learned how to stay in control of their benefits while enriching their lives through employment. You can too.

WISE webinars provide you and your family the opportunity to learn how to take advantage of Social Security Work Incentives, including Ticket to Work.

[Register online](#) for the webinar on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 starting at 3:00 p.m. EST. You can also register by calling 866-968-7842/TDD 866-833-2967.

News Release

Social Security Holds Compassionate Allowances Hearing on Autoimmune Diseases

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, hosted the agency's seventh public hearing on Compassionate Allowances. Commissioner Astrue joined Robert H. Carter, Deputy Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, National Institutes of Health, and other Social Security officials in hearing testimony from some of the nation's leading experts on autoimmune diseases about the possible methods of identifying and implementing Compassionate Allowances for adults and children with autoimmune diseases.

"Over 20 million Americans suffer from autoimmune conditions, which particularly affect women and children," Commissioner Astrue said. "The social and financial burdens imposed by these chronic, debilitating diseases can be devastating for individuals and their families. With this hearing, we are searching for objective medical evidence and decision rules that we can use to expedite cases for those with the most severe conditions and quickly provide them with some measure of financial security."


Social Security implemented Compassionate Allowances in October 2008 to expedite the processing of disability claims for applicants with medical conditions so severe that their conditions by definition meet Social Security's standards. Currently, 88 specific diseases and conditions qualify as a Compassionate Allowance. To learn more and to view a web cast of this hearing, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

"Last year, the Compassionate Allowances initiative, along with our Quick Disability Determination process, allowed us to quickly approve over 100,000 disability applications for the most severely disabled Americans," said Commissioner Astrue. "This year we expect to increase the number of fast-tracked cases to about 150,000. We also plan to expand our list of Compassionate Allowance conditions later this year, bringing it to about 100 conditions."

Michigan's *NEW* Disability Benefits 101 Website - www.mi.db101.org

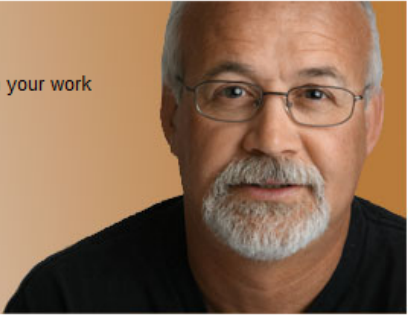
Overview - <http://bit.ly/hP4jmG> Tutorial - <http://bit.ly/hwZhSi>

Disability Benefits 101
working with a disability in Michigan



Calculators

Use DB101's online benefits planning Calculators to get ready for a change in your work or benefits, or to learn how benefits rules might apply to you.



Benefits and Work Calculator

What will happen to your income, benefits, and health coverage if you go to work? You can use the Benefits and Work Calculator to find out how a job may affect your total income and your health coverage.

[Go](#)

School and Work Calculator

Young people with disabilities can use the School and Work Calculator to find out how a job can affect their cash benefits and health coverage - and how staying in school can help.

[Go](#)

- **The online calculator is available 24/7/365**
- **The information is confidential – it only requires month/year of birth and zip code**
- **There are direct links to supporting information and/or contacts**

Become more self-determined and empowered:

- **You can save sessions to discuss with agencies**
 - **Recall on-line with your chosen password**
 - **Print out details (up to 60 month projection)**
 - **Use key agency terms for credibility**

Please Note that this does NOT replace full benefits planning provided by Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

Publications Revised in 2011

A Guide to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Groups and Organizations

SSA Publication No. 05-11015, January 2011, ICN 480300

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11015.html>

This booklet is aimed at groups and organizations that serve or have contact with the SSI population. It gives a comprehensive explanation of SSI, as well as information on how organizations can help Social Security reach potential SSI recipients. A table lists the maximum payment rates in states that add to the federal payment. Also included is a section on helping SSI recipients go back to work.

You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSA Publication No. 05-11069, January 2011, ICN 480390

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html>

This leaflet is enclosed with the Medicare enrollment package to inform aged and disabled Social Security beneficiaries nearing entitlement to Medicare about the availability of SSI.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSA Publication No. 05-11000, May 2011, ICN 480200

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html>

This publication gives general information about the SSI program and tells how to apply for benefits. It describes income and resource limits and other eligibility requirements. It includes information about other services available to SSI recipients.

What You Need To Know When You Get Disability Benefits

SSA Publication No. 05-10153, April 2011, ICN 480165

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10153.html>

This booklet is enclosed with award certificates to new disability beneficiaries. It explains what a beneficiary can expect from Social Security, the beneficiary's reporting responsibilities, and how and when to report changes that can affect benefits.

What You Need To Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSA Publication No. 05-11011, April 2011, ICN 480265

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11011.html>


This publication is enclosed with award certificates to new SSI recipients. It explains the rights and responsibilities of SSI recipients—what they can expect, events they must report and how to report them.



Withholding income tax from your Social Security benefits

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxwithhold.htm>

You can ask us to withhold federal taxes from your Social Security when you apply for benefits. If you are already receiving benefits or if you want to change or stop your withholding, you'll need a form W-4V from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

You can [download the form](#) , or call the IRS toll-free number **1-800-829-3676** and ask for Form W-4V, *Voluntary Withholding Request*. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the IRS TTY number, **1-800-829-4059**.)

When you complete the form, you will need to select the percentage of your monthly benefit amount you want withheld. You can have 7%, 10%, 15% or 25% of your monthly benefit withheld for taxes.

Note: Only these percentages can be withheld. Flat dollar amounts are not accepted. If you want to know how much a particular percentage is equal to in dollars, call us at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**).

Sign the form and return it to [your local Social Security office](#) by mail or in person.

Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates or taken off the mailing list, send an e-mail to vonda.vantil@ssa.gov