



PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network
News
2017
October Issue #208

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

World AIDS Day is December 1st

Make sure you add your event to the updated website

www.worldAIDSDayNW.org

Next Meeting

Next Meeting
November 14th

HIV in
Corrections
Chaela Manning
Ferguson, CADC



HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Social Security has a toolbox full of resources on its website, www.socialsecurity.gov, to help you with your financial planning. With so many resources, maybe it's easier if we highlight one of our "best."

B.E.S.T. is the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool, available at <https://ssabest.benefits.gov>. It can help you find out if you might be eligible for retirement, disability, survivors, Supplemental Security Income, or Medicare benefits. Although B.E.S.T. asks you a series of questions to determine your eligibility, they are not personal in nature and the answers are not stored.

On average, it takes only about 10 minutes to complete the B.E.S.T. questionnaire. First, it guides you through the questions needed to find out if you could qualify for benefits. Just to the right of each question is an information icon (a white "i" in a blue circle) that gives you tips on how to answer each question.

The "results" section appears automatically after you have completed some basic questions. B.E.S.T. lists each program for which you might qualify. By clicking on the "read more" tab, you'll find a description of the benefits program, its requirements, and what your next steps should be. If you are eligible for benefits, you must file an application for benefits with Social Security because B.E.S.T. is not an application. The best way to do this is by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.

You can go back and narrow your resource responses by answering additional questions. After you have reviewed the results, you can print a copy for your records or email yourself a copy.

B.E.S.T. doesn't screen for the *Extra Help* program, which helps with Medicare Part D prescription drug plan costs. You can see if you qualify for that at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp.

One FACT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DISABILITY

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Disability is something many people aren't faced with in a direct way. The reality is, a 20-year-old worker currently has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement age. That makes Social Security disability benefits something you should learn about and understand.

One fact you should know is Social Security's definition of disability: the inability to work because of a severe condition that is expected to last for a year or end in death.

Social Security disability benefits replace part of your income when you become disabled and are unable to work. Other disability programs may have partial disability or short-term disability, but federal law requires a stricter definition of disability for Social Security benefits. The definition of disability used to qualify you for Social Security Disability Insurance is generally the same one that is used for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Most people focus on the medical severity of their condition when filing for disability benefits. They provide medical records that show how severe the condition is. Since Social Security defines severity in terms of being unable to work, we also need complete work information.

You can read a description about the process of evaluating whether you can work or not and the severity of your condition in our publication, *Disability Benefits* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10029.pdf, under the section, "How we make the decision." Understanding how we make the disability decision helps you see the importance of information you provide about your condition and the types of work you have done. For more information about how we evaluate your work, you should review this section on our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/step4and5.htm.

Remember, when you provide the details about your condition and your work, you're creating a picture of your individual situation. These details show the extent of your disabling condition. These are examples of some of the types of specific information we need about your prior work:

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

- ◇ Main responsibilities of your job(s);
- ◇ Main tasks you performed;
- ◇ Dates you worked (month and year);
- ◇ Number of hours a day you worked per week;
- ◇ Rate of pay you received;
- ◇ Tools, machinery and equipment you used;
- ◇ Knowledge, skills and abilities your work required;
- ◇ Extent of supervision you had;
- ◇ Amount of independent judgment you used;
- ◇ Objects you had to lift and carry and how much they weighed;
- ◇ How much you had to sit, stand, walk, climb, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, balance;
- ◇ How you used your hands, arms, and legs;
- ◇ Speaking, hearing and vision requirements of your job(s); and
- ◇ Environmental conditions of your workplace(s).

Disability is an unpredictable element in our lives. Help us help you by educating yourself about disability benefits, and by providing all the specific information we ask for when you file for benefits. Social Security continues to secure today and tomorrow by providing benefits and financial protection for millions of people throughout life's journey.

[SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORTS veterans](#)

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Supporting veterans and active duty members of the military is a key part of Social Security's mission. Our disability program has helped countless wounded warriors and their loved ones. Every Veterans Day, the nation collectively honors the brave people who risk their lives to protect our country.

For those who return home with injuries, Social Security is a resource they can turn to for disability benefits. Social Security's Wounded Warriors website is at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

The Wounded Warriors website has answers to many commonly asked questions, and provides other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of disability claims. Benefits available through Social Security are different from those available from the Department of Veterans Affairs; they require a separate application.

Social Security's expedited process is available to military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they're unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay doesn't necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person can't receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

You can learn more by visiting our veterans page at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans.

**Save the date-March 29, 2018
2018 Meaningful Care Conference in Portland, Oregon.**

The Meaningful Care Conference is a day-long training event for healthcare and social service professionals, the Meaningful Care Conference aims to promote LGBTQ+ cultural competency in health care and social services, share current LGBTQ+ best practices in health care and social services, and to develop and diversify networks of LGBTQ+ culturally competent health care and social service providers. www.meaningfulcare.org.



**LGBTQ+
MEANINGFUL CARE
CONFERENCE
MARCH 29, 2018
PORTLAND, OREGON**

2018 MEANINGFUL CARE CONFERENCE IS A DAY-LONG TRAINING EVENT FOR HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS TO PROMOTE LGBTQ+ CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES, SHARE CURRENT LGBTQ+ BEST PRACTICES IN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND TO DEVELOP AND DIVERSIFY NETWORKS OF LGBTQ+ CULTURALLY COMPETENT HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

**REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.MEANINGFULCARE.ORG**



Resources for Open Enrollment

NASTAD has created the [NASTAD PrEP Cost Calculator](#).



[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Contact](#)

Welcome!

NASTAD PrEP Cost Calculator

If you are considering PrEP for HIV prevention, this site can help you pick the **best** marketplace health plan for you.

[Get Covered America](#) offers the latest news we should be aware of and marketing materials to promote open enrollment.

GET COVERED AMERICA

[HOME](#)
[LATEST NEWS & PRESS](#)
[TAKE ACTION](#)
[DONATE](#)

HEALTHCARE.GOV HAS A NEW DEADLINE THIS YEAR: **DECEMBER 15**

Sign up for the latest health care updates.

Email Address

ZipCode

The laptop screen shows the Healthcare.gov website with the headline: "2018 Open Enrollment runs from Nov 1 - Dec 15. Are you ready?" and buttons for "GET READY TO APPLY" and "GET READY TO KEEP/CHANGE".

This newsletter is published by [OHSU/ Partnership Project](#).

Our thanks to OHA HIV Care and Treatment Program for website posting distribution of the newsletter.

The editor is Julia Lager-Mesulam.

Comments/questions about this publication should be directed to:

Julia Lager-Mesulam at lagermes@ohsu.edu, or call (503) 230-1202, FAX (503) 230-1213, 5525 SE Milwaukie Ave. Portland, OR 97202

This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be found electronically [here](#)