



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network  
News  
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OREGON HIV / AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT



Come join Partnership next weekend at Pride!

We'll be at the OHSU table!!

Looking forward to seeing you!!

**Next Meeting**  
**June**  
**Tuesday,**  
**June 9th**  
  
**Current**  
**Immigration Issues**  
  
**Alexandra Blodget, BIA**  
Accredited  
Representative,  
**Catholic Charities**  
  
**Immigration Legal**  
**Services**



## SOCIAL SECURITY TURNS 80

**By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs**

Eighty years ago, on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. The new law guaranteed a basic income for retirees and, at the time, the unemployed.

Over the years, Social Security has expanded its safety net to provide benefits for retirees, people with disabilities and the chronically ill, and spouses and children of deceased workers. The agency has evolved to serve the needs of a changing America. Now, we're celebrating this historic anniversary by looking at both our successful past, and the path to an even brighter future.

Social Security is there for you during all stages of life. Right from the beginning, we issue a unique Social Security number to most newborns when an application is taken at the hospital. This allows us to track your income over your working career and accurately calculate your retirement benefit. We provide disability benefits to injured and chronically ill workers and their families. We provide survivors benefits to widows, widowers, and the minors of deceased workers. We also provide Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to those with low income and resources, and *Extra Help* with Medicare prescription drug costs for people who qualify.

In our decades of experience, Social Security has evolved to meet the fast-paced demands of the digital world. Creating an online *my Social Security* account, for instance, lets you view your *Social Security Statement*, verify the accuracy of your earnings record, and get estimates of future monthly benefits. Once you begin receiving Social Security benefits, you can use your online account to manage your record, including changing your address and phone number, checking your benefit information, changing your electronic payment method, and obtaining an instant benefit verification letter or replacement SSA-1099/1042S. If you haven't already, you can easily sign up for a *my Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Our safe and secure online services allow you to apply for retirement, spouse's, Medicare, and disability benefits from the comfort of your home. You can quickly complete an online retirement application at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline).

Looking to the future, we recently released our *Vision 2025*, a strategic plan to help us shape the future of Social Security service delivery and maintain clear communication with you. For more information about our vision for the next ten years, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/vision2025](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/vision2025).

We look to the next 80 years with a renewed commitment to proudly serving Social Security customers throughout their lifetime, when and where they need us. See how Social Security has evolved over the years at [www.socialsecurity.gov/history](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/history).

## SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

Social Security serves a person for life — from birth, to death, and even beyond, by helping to care for surviving dependents. When a parent becomes disabled or dies, Social Security benefits help to stabilize the family's financial future in an otherwise turbulent time. And we pay benefits to adults and children.

In July, the world celebrates World Youth Day. Social Security is no stranger to helping children in need. Every year, about 4.4 million children receive monthly benefits because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. Those benefits help with their day-to-day needs.

In addition, Social Security provides vital income for disabled children, including people disabled since childhood, through our Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and our Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. To qualify for children's benefits under the SSDI program, the applicant must be the child of a parent entitled to benefits and meet Social Security's strict definition of disability. He or she must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of disabling conditions, that seriously limits his or her daily activities and is expected to last for at least 12 months or result in death.

The SSI program provides payments to blind or disabled children who live in households with low income and limited resources if they meet our strict definition of disability. You can find more information on eligibility requirements by visiting our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The ADA ensures equal opportunity for and equal treatment of people with disabilities at school, in work places, in commercial facilities, and through the services available from state and local government agencies. The ADA requires that government agencies communicate with Americans who have disabilities in the way that fits their needs. This legislation shows our nation's commitment to all people, despite their physical and mental disabilities.

Since the ADA's inception, Social Security has been and continues to be at the forefront, providing accommodations for disabled beneficiaries and employees. It's a natural part of who we are as an agency.

If you think your child may qualify for children's benefits, you can apply by calling Social Security toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or by visiting your local Social Security office. You can also read our publication, *Benefits for Children*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

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