



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network  
News  
2014  
October Issue #172

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

## Useful Tools to spread the word about OHP renewals

For those of you who have your own newsletter and social media outlets, check out the easy to use information to disseminate to your community at [OHP toolkit](#).

**Renew your OHP**  
As easy as 1-2-3

1. Receive a renewal letter from the Oregon Health Plan
2. Complete and sign the form or application
3. Send it back

[ohp.oregon.gov](http://ohp.oregon.gov)



Oregon Health Plan members need to renew their benefits every year. When it's your turn to renew, you will get a letter.



Learn more at: [www.ohp.oregon.gov](http://www.ohp.oregon.gov)

## Next Meeting September

Tuesday,  
November 11th

Different location  
**Lincoln Building**  
**421 SW Oak- Pine**  
**Room**

**Guest- Danette**  
**Haynes, LCSW**

**Avel Gordy Center**  
**for Healing/OHSU**

## World AIDS Day 2014

Please share [World AIDS Day NW](#) and new World AIDS Day message in your newsletter and social media!

**START  
TALKING. STOP HIV.**

OF FEAR  
FEAR  
POVERTY  
ISOLATION  
STIGMA  
IGNORANCE  
SILENCE  
GUILT  
SHAME



[#StartTalkingNW](#) [worldaidsdaynw.org](http://worldaidsdaynw.org)

**START  
TALKING.  
STOP HIV.**

**[#StartTalkingNW](#)**



[worldaidsdaynw.org](http://worldaidsdaynw.org)

## YOU CAN HELP AS A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

November is Family Caregiver's Month, a time to thank and acknowledge all of the people who take care of those in need. If you handle the finances of someone who receives benefits from Social Security, or you know someone who may need help managing his or her benefits, you may want to consider applying to be a representative payee.

A representative payee is someone who receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments on behalf of a person not capable of managing the funds on his or her own. A representative payee makes sure an individual's basic needs are met by using the money to provide food, clothing, and shelter for the person and saving any money left over in an interest-bearing account or via savings bonds for the beneficiary's future needs.

As a representative payee, you must:

- know the person's needs so you can decide the best way to meet those needs with the benefits provided;
  - be responsible for letting Social Security know about any changes that may affect the person's eligibility for benefits or the payment amount; and
- complete a yearly report of how the funds were spent. (You can do this online).

If you know somebody who receives Social Security or SSI benefits who is not able to manage his or her own finances, the best thing you can do is become familiar with the responsibilities of a representative payee and consider becoming one.

To learn more, read our publication, *A Guide For Representative Payees*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs) and visit the webpage, "When People Need Help Managing Their Money," at [www.socialsecurity.gov/payee](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payee). Social Security will work with you to determine if a payee is needed and who would be best suited to act in that capacity.

Thank you to all of the caregivers out there. And, thank you for considering becoming a representative payee for someone in need.

## SERVING VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY AND ALWAYS

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

Every day—but particularly on Veterans Day—Social Security salutes those who have put their lives on the line for our freedom.

Members of the United States armed forces receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability applications. The expedited process is available for any military service member who alleges he or she became disabled during active duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurred—at home or in the line of duty. Expedited processing is also available to veterans who have a compensation rating of 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) disability, regardless of when the disability occurred. Some dependent children and spouses of military personnel may also be eligible to receive benefits.

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Visit our website designed specifically for our wounded veterans, [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors), where you will find answers to a number of commonly asked questions, as well as other useful information about disability benefits available under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Our website includes a fact sheet on the subject: *Disability Benefits For Wounded Warriors*.

You'll also find a webinar, "Social Security for Wounded Warriors," that explains the expedited disability process available to wounded warriors. The one-hour video is an introduction to disability benefits for veterans and active duty military personnel. If you would like more detailed information about the disability process, you can watch our seven-part video series "Social Security Disability Claims Process" at [www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia/webinars](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia/webinars).

On the Wounded Warriors webpage, you'll find links to the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense websites. Please keep in mind that the requirements for disability benefits available through Social Security **are different** from those of the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

Military service members are covered for the same Social Security survivors, disability, and retirement benefits as everyone else. Although the expedited service is relatively new, military personnel have been covered under Social Security since 1957, and people who were in the service prior to that may be able to get special credit for some of their service.

Read our publication, *Military Service And Social Security*, to learn more. It's available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs). Also, navigate to [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors).

Thank you to our nation's brave veterans. We salute you on Veterans Day and every day.

## **FACES AND FACTS TELL THE STORY OF DISABILITY**

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

November is Family Stories Month. Every family has stories—stories are a great way to carry on family legacies, pass lessons on to future generations, and share what is important to your family with the rest of the world. Your family stories may include ones about the birth of a child, serving in war, helping people in need, or the deaths of loved ones.

We'd like to share some stories about what it means to receive disability benefits from Social Security. And we have a website that does just that: The Faces and Facts of Disability, ready for you to explore at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts).

Learning the facts and hearing people's stories about disability allows for a fuller understanding of what is perhaps the most misunderstood Social Security program.

The Social Security Act sets a very strict definition of disability. To receive disability benefits, a person must have an impairment expected to last at least a year or result in death. The impairment must be so severe that it renders the person unable to perform not only his or her previous work, but also any other substantial work in the national job market. Social Security does not provide temporary or partial disability benefits. Because the eligibility requirements are so strict, Social Security disability beneficiaries are among the most severely impaired people in the country and tend to have high death rates.

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In addition, Social Security conducts a periodic review of people who receive disability benefits to ensure they remain eligible for disability. Social Security aggressively works to prevent, detect, and prosecute fraud. Social Security often investigates suspicious disability claims before making a decision to award benefits—proactively stopping fraud before it happens. These steps help ensure only those eligible have access to disability benefits.

If you want to learn more about what happens behind the scenes when someone applies for disability benefits, watch our seven-part video series on the process at [www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia/webinars](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia/webinars).

Please read and watch some of the stories about real cases of people who have benefited from Social Security by visiting the Faces and Facts of Disability website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts).

Family and personal stories are great ways to discover important truths.

### Question:

I need to make changes to my Medicare prescription drug coverage. When can I do that?

### Answer:

Open season for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage runs from October 15 to December 7. The Medicare Part D prescription drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary and participants pay an additional monthly premium. If you are considering changing your plan, you might want to revisit the Application for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. If you have limited resources and income, you may also be eligible for Extra Help to pay monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. Extra Help is estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per year. To find out more, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp). For more information about the Medicare prescription drug program itself, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Speaking of medical benefits, the open enrollment period for qualified health plans under the Affordable Care Act is November 15 to February 15. Learn more at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

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**This issue, and issues from Feb 2002 on, can be found electronically [here](#)**