

DDS Values, Goals and General Information

Our values:

- We take pride in the timeliness, accuracy and cost efficiency of our decisions.
- We respond to our claimants in a dignified, courteous and respectful manner.
- We embrace change and challenge
- We elicit and value client input.
- We demonstrate on an ongoing basis that employees are our most valued assets.

Our Goals:

- To employ a highly trained, motivated and productive team
- To provide outstanding public service in the benefit process
- To enhance our partnership with the medical and educational communities
- To utilize state of the art technology

General Information

Our office is in Sioux Falls. We are housed in the state office building at 811 East 10th Street. We employ approximately 20 disability examiners, 14 physicians, and 10 administrative and clerical staff. We make medical decisions on more than 9,000 claims per year.

Our staff gathers medical information from the sources listed by our clients and any new sources we discover in that process. We evaluate that evidence against [Social Security Disability criteria](#). These criteria are very specific. They essentially say that our applicants must have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that will last for at least 12 consecutive months, and which prevents them from performing the work-related activities of their previous jobs or any other jobs which they might be able to perform based on their age, education, and work experience, or is expected to result in death. (See <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/> for complete information about Social Security Disability programs). Please follow this link to see [how we decide if you are disabled under the rules of Social Security](#).

Social Security has two disability programs - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). There are some differences and some similarities in the two programs. The definition of medical disability is the same under both programs.

[Social Security Disability Insurance](#) pays disability benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured" meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

Supplemental Security Income pays disability benefits based on financial need.

When you apply for either program, we will collect medical and other information from you and make a decision about whether or not you meet Social Security's definition of disability.

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[Click here to view the basic steps in the process](#)

[Click here to view some useful links to information](#)