

# Disability Assistance – Application Process & Forms

*This fact sheet explains the different types of disability income available to CA residents and how providers can assist patients with disabilities in their application process.*

Supplement Security Income	Social Security Disability	CA State Disability Insurance
<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For individuals who are disabled as defined by the SSA, blind, or aged 65+</li> <li>- Must reside in U.S. to receive continuous benefits</li> <li>- Must be U.S citizen or a meet a qualified immigration category</li> <li>- Must be low-income and low-resourced (assets below \$2000 for an individual and below \$3000 for a couple)</li> <li>- No work credit requirement</li> </ul> <p>Maximum Federal Benefit in 2023 is \$914/month for an individual, which is supplemented by CA for a maximum <u>total max benefit of \$1,133.73/month.</u></p>	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For individuals who are disabled as defined by the SSA</li> <li>- Must be U.S citizen or a meet a qualified immigration category</li> <li>- May receive benefits while living outside the U.S.</li> <li>- Must have sufficient work credits: 40 credits, 20 of which were earned in the last ten years within the year the disability began</li> <li>- No resource or income test</li> </ul> <p>Monthly benefit award is based on applicant's work credit history.</p>	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must apply no earlier than 9 days after the first day disability begins but no later than 49 days after</li> <li>- Be unable to do regular or customary work for at least 8 days</li> <li>- Lost wages because of the disability; and</li> <li>- Earned at least \$300 from which SDI deductions were withheld during base period</li> </ul> <p>Monthly benefit award is based on applicant's work credit history.</p>
<p><b>Disability defined by SSA:</b> <i>Adults who are unable to work or otherwise engage in substantial gainful activity due to a disability that is either expected to last continuously for 12+ months, or is expected to result in death.</i></p>		

## HOW HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS CAN ASSIST APPLICANTS

State Disability Insurance (SDI) applicants need a physician/practitioner to complete a medical certification ("**Part B**" on **Application Form DE 2501 - Claim for Disability Insurance Benefits to EDD**).

Physicians/practitioners do **NOT** need to complete a form for first-time SSI/SSDI applicants.

Unlike SDI, SSA's Disability Determination Services make the decision on whether an applicant is disabled after a detailed review of their medical records. Physicians/practitioners can support SSI/SSDI applicants by ensuring their medical records contain detailed diagnosis and treatment, as well as statements about limitations to work or engage in substantial gainful activity.