

Promoting Self-Sufficiency for TANF Participants with Disabilities

Adult TANF SSI/SSDI Advocacy Services

The Challenge: A Growing Population

According to the United States Census Bureau, 19 percent of the population — nearly one out of five people — has some type of disability.¹ Among Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) participants, the rate is even higher: it is estimated that as many as 44 percent report chronic health problems or disabilities.² Ensuring these individuals are properly assessed and are either matched with work they can successfully perform, or guided through the application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) if they cannot work, is critical to helping them become self-sufficient. With more than 15 years working directly with TANF participants who are potentially eligible for SSI/SSDI, MAXIMUS is highly qualified to provide SSI/SSDI advocacy services.



Snapshot

MAXIMUS TANF SSI/SSDI Advocacy Services help TANF participants with disabilities become self-sufficient, while helping states increase state participation rates and maximize TANF funding. Our services include:

- Thorough assessments that identify TANF participants with disabilities who could benefit from SSI/SSDI Advocacy Services
- Comprehensive SSI/SSDI application assistance and advocacy that ensures the submission of complete and accurate SSI/SSDI applications
- Close collaboration with medical providers, clinicians, community organizations and other agencies to facilitate building strong SSI/SSDI cases

The Solution: Proactive Assessment and SSI/SSDI Benefits Advocacy Services

The MAXIMUS approach involves partnering with state and local TANF programs to identify and assist participants with disabilities who are potentially eligible for SSI/SSDI benefits. Our proactive solution:

- Accurately screens and identifies potentially SSI/SSDI-eligible TANF participants to increase the number of approved applications and maximize resources
- Builds strong partnerships with local Social Security Administration (SSA) offices, medical providers, local social service agencies and other community organizations to gather required documentation quickly and effectively, and build strong cases
- Completes all initial applications, appeal applications, and continuing disability reviews

¹ U.S. Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-134.html>

² U.S. Social Security Administration – Office of Policy <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v65n3/v65n3p14.html>.

- Leverages federal benefits to reduce financial burdens on state and local governments
- Remedies issues quickly and assists with appeals to make sure eligible individuals receive the benefits they need to achieve long-term stability

Success in Action

MAXIMUS Adult TANF SSI/SSDI Advocacy Services helped the State of Wisconsin save

\$800K
in benefit dollars 

Our Central Region program achieved an

83% approval rate **for cases submitted to SSI/SSDI** 

The highest approval rate of all W-2 Employment Agency providers in Milwaukee County

The Results: Successful Outcomes for Participants and Cost Savings for States

Providing early assessment and SSI/SSDI benefits advocacy services for TANF participants with disabilities are key to helping them move towards self-sufficiency. Just as importantly, doing so can help both participants and state and local governments alike realize significant benefits, including:

- Providing for ongoing financial stability through SSI/SSDI benefits
- Protecting limited benefits funds for other eligible participants
- Maximizing federal and state resources
- Achieving significant cost savings

One Focus, One Source

MAXIMUS has maintained a single focus on government service since 1975. Our dedicated professionals help government agencies provide essential health and human services with an innovative, compassionate approach and deep subject matter expertise. Every process, procedure and project we undertake is focused on delivering high-quality, cost-effective solutions that help government agencies fulfill their missions.