

# Social Security

Official Social Security Website

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## Compassionate Allowances Frequently Asked Questions

[What is the definition of disability?](#)[What is Social Security Disability Insurance \(SSDI\)?](#)[What is Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)?](#)[What is the Compassionate Allowances Initiative?](#)

The Compassionate Allowances (CAL) initiative is a way to expedite the processing of SSDI and SSI disability claims for applicants whose medical conditions are so severe that their conditions obviously meet Social Security's definition of disability. It is not a separate program from SSA's two disability programs, SSDI and SSI.

[How do you add conditions to the CAL list?](#)[Are you planning to add more CAL conditions?](#)[How does a person with a CAL condition apply for disability?](#)[How long does it take SSA to make a decision on a claim for individuals with CAL conditions?](#)[What else have you done to help people with CAL conditions?](#)

### Compassionate Allowances Links

[Home](#)[List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions](#)[CAL FAQs](#)[CAL Outreach & Hearings](#)[CAL News Headlines](#)[Advocacy Links](#)

### Related Links

[Small Grants Program](#)[Definition of Disability](#)[How You Apply for Disability Benefits](#)

Will a person receive additional money because they have a Compassionate Allowances condition?

What are some other ways you are working to ensure that SSA's disability standards are in line with current medical and scientific practice?

Can you give more information on CAL outreach?

Will SSA notify an applicant if his/her claim is selected for fast-tracked processing?

 [Contact the Compassionate Allowances Team](#)

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