



Social Security Appeals Project

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Social Security Appeals Project

Background

- Multiple paths exist for EAEDC and TAFDC recipients to obtain disability determinations
 - SSA vs. DES
- Study found low SSI approval rate for DTA recipients reviewed and approved for disability by DES
 - Overall only 33% of recipients approved by DES were also approved by SSA for SSI benefits
- Can we utilize information collected in the DES disability review to assist recipients in becoming approved for SSI benefits by SSA?

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Overview

Who? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100 randomly selected EAEDC and TAFDC recipients approved for disability by DES, but whose SSI applications have been denied by SSA	What? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity for recipients to receive assistance through the SSA process to appeal SSI denials
Where? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five TAO offices to start:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Brockton– Former Davis Square– Malden– North Shore– Revere	When? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginning December 11, 2006• Expectation of future expansion if the project is successful
How? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through a partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS)	

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Overview

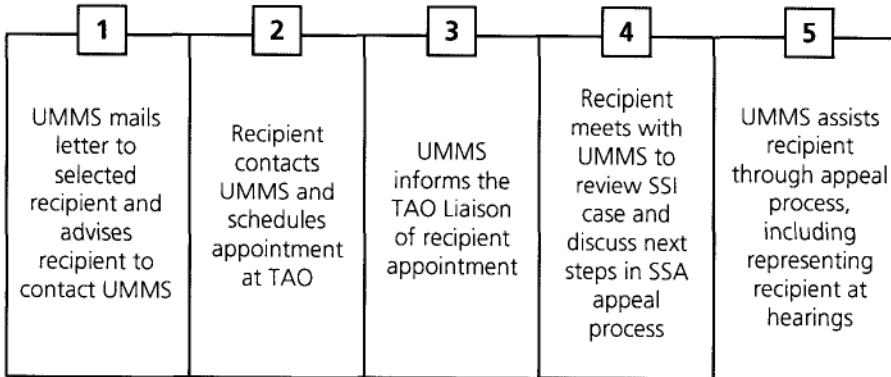
Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DTA and UMMS want to help eligible recipients become approved for SSI benefits• SSA appeal process is complicated and difficult for recipients to navigate• With SSI, recipients will receive more money
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Process

Basic Project Process

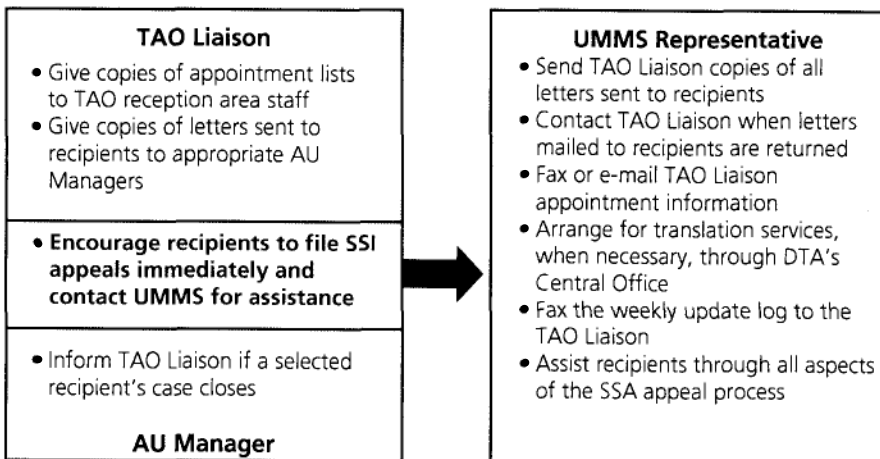


→ UMMS continually updates TAO Liaison of appeal status through weekly log →

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Roles



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Contact Information

Social Security Appeals Unit
1-800-890-2986

- Dayce Moore,
– Appeals Manager
- Aline Mulhern,
– Operations Manager
- Sheldon Ananian
- Kimberly Collins
- Phil O’Neill
- David Rodibaugh

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who can participate in this project?**
 - EAEDC or TAFDC recipients from the five selected offices, whose applications for SSI have been denied and who are randomly selected and receive letters inviting them to participate.

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Frequently Asked Questions

2. **A recipient just called me asking about the letter he received inviting him to participate in the Social Security Appeals project. He asked me what he should do. What should I tell him?**
- First, you should advise him to file his SSI appeal immediately, particularly if he is an EAEDC recipient. Then you should tell him that this is a project that can help him in the appeal process, which can be complicated. Tell him taking the help is voluntary, but advise him to call the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) Social Security Appeals Unit at 1-800-890-2986 and find out more about the project.
 - If the recipient is uncertain of how to file an appeal of his SSI denial, you should advise him to call UMMS at 1-800-890-2986, and UMMS representatives will advise him of what steps he needs to take.

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Frequently Asked Questions

3. **An EAEDC recipient received a letter inviting her to participate but she didn't contact UMMS and more than ten days have passed since she received the letter. What should I advise her to do?**
- First, you should advise her to file her SSI appeal immediately. Then you should explain that even though it is more than ten days since she received the letter she should still call UMMS. In many instances, UMMS will still be able to help with her SSI appeal. The ten day timeframe is in the letter to highlight the importance of acting quickly to file the SSI appeal and also to involve UMMS as soon as possible.
 - If the recipient is uncertain of how to file an appeal of her SSI denial, you should advise her to call UMMS at 1-800-890-2986, and UMMS representatives will advise her of what steps she needs to take.

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Frequently Asked Questions

4. **A recipient called saying he didn't receive a letter inviting him to participate in the project but his roommate did. He would also like to participate. What should I tell him?**
- Explain that this is a small project and participation is limited to those who received a letter. One of the purposes of the project is to determine if the services should be offered on a larger scale. But right now that is not the case and this individual cannot participate. You should be very clear that if the client is an EAEDC recipient, he **MUST** appeal his SSI denial to continue to receive EAEDC, and if he is a TAFDC recipient, you should explain the advantages of appealing the SSI denial.

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Frequently Asked Questions

5. **Will I know if one of my recipients has been invited to participate in the project?**
- Yes. UMMS will send a letter to the selected individuals inviting them to participate. Copies of those letters will be sent to the TAO Liaisons and they will give them to the appropriate AU Manager to file in the case record. Your TAO Liaison will also receive regular updates on individuals who decide to participate in the project, when UMMS staff is scheduled to meet with recipients, and what the SSI appeal status of participants is.

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