

Expedited Reinstatement for Former SSDI Beneficiaries

SSDI Fact Sheet 2026

What is Expedited Reinstatement?

Expedited Reinstatement (EXR) is a work incentive that former Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries can use to have their benefits reinstated. Once Social Security determines eligibility for EXR, there is no waiting period to reinstate cash and health insurance benefits.

Can a former SSDI beneficiary qualify for EXR?

Former SSDI beneficiaries must meet the following conditions to be eligible for EXR:

- The SSDI case must have terminated due to performing Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) after the Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE). In 2026, gross monthly earnings that equal or exceed \$1,690 would be considered SGA.
- The beneficiary is no longer able to work or perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) due to the disability, or because of a disability-related medical condition.
- EXR must be requested within 5 years (60 months) from the month the case was closed. Exceptions are made to this rule if the beneficiary provides good cause (i.e., not being notified that their case was terminated).

Can other SSDI-related programs use EXR?

Yes. Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB) and Disabled Widow(er)'s Benefits (DWB) fall under the same category as SSDI. Therefore, former beneficiaries of either program can also be eligible for EXR and must meet the conditions listed above.

How does EXR work for former SSDI beneficiaries?

If SSDI benefits end because of earnings from work, a request can be made to start benefits again. While Social Security makes their determination to reinstate benefits, they will provide provisional (temporary) benefits for up to 6 months. Provisional cash benefits, which exclude minor dependent benefits, and public health insurance benefits (Medicare) usually begin the month after requesting EXR.

Note: EXR can be requested in the same month the beneficiary stops performing SGA.

What if the EXR request is denied?

If denied, provisional benefits will not be considered an overpayment and will not have to be repaid to Social Security. Social Security's EXR decision can be appealed within 10 business days of receiving official notification.

Note: If Medicare continues under the Extended Period of Medicare Coverage (EPMC) and EXR is denied because of medical improvement, then Medicare coverage will stop.

What if the EXR request is approved?

When approved, SSDI benefits will be reinstated officially, and the Initial Reinstatement Period (IRP) will begin. IRP will conclude after receiving 24 cash benefit payments. During IRP, SSDI beneficiaries will receive cash benefits during months they are not performing SGA.

What are the benefits of EXR?

- To qualify for EXR, only the medical standard must be met, rather than both medical and vocational standards.
- Up to 6 months of temporary cash and health insurance benefits are received while Social Security is making an EXR decision.
- Once the IRP is considered complete, the beneficiary will be entitled to all SSDI work incentives.

To learn more about these incentives, reference the SSDI Benefits & Related Work Incentives Fact Sheet at the [Work Without Limits Resources page](#).

For more information about
Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling
call toll-free **1-877-YES-WORK** (1-877-937-9675)
or visit workwithoutlimits.org