

SSA ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
AALJ	Association of Administrative Law Judges (ALJ labor union)
AC	Appeals Council (last step of administrative review process)
AFGE	American Federation of Government Employees (SSA's major labor union)
AWI	Average wage index
AWIC	Area Work Incentive Coordinator (provides support to a specific geographical area of field offices)
CALJ	Chief Administrative Law Judge (responsible for the overall management of the ALJ process and workload.)
CDB	Childhood Disability Beneficiary (SSDI beneficiary)
CDI	Continuing Disability Investigation (Investigations into alleged cases of fraud; conducted by the Inspector General.)
CDR	Continuing Disability Review
CE	Consultative examination (purchased medical examination)
CPI	Consumer price index
CPI-E	Experimental consumer price index for the elderly
CPI-W	Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers
CPMS	Case Processing and Management System (electronic case adjudication system used in the administrative hearing process)
DCBFM	Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance, and Management
DCCOMM	Deputy Commissioner for Communications
DCDAR	Deputy Commissioner for Disability Adjudication and Review (adm reviews and hearings; components include: FedROs, ALJs, DRB)
DCDISP	Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs (retirement and survivors, disability, and Supplemental Security Income programs)
DCHR	Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources
DCLCA	Deputy Commissioner for Legislative and Congressional Affairs
DCO	Deputy Commissioner for Operations (field offices, regional offices, program service centers, disability determination services, teleservice centers)
DCP	Deputy Commissioner for Policy
DCS	Deputy Commissioner for Systems
DDS	Disability Determination Services (state agencies that adjudicate disability claims on behalf of SSA. Arrangement is by regulation.)
DE	Disability examiner
DI	Disability insurance
DOT	Dictionary of Occupational Titles

DQB	Disability Quality Branch (conducts quality reviews of DDS disability claims)
DRB	Decision Review Board (conducts review of ALJ decisions, will ultimately replace the Appeals Council)
DSI	Disability Service Initiative (new administrative adjudication process)
DWB	Disabled Widow Beneficiary (SSDI beneficiary)
eCAT	Electronic Claims Analysis Tool (used by the DDSs to develop and adjudicate claims)
EDCS	Electronic Disability Claim System (used by the field offices to process electronic disability claims)
eDib	Electronic disability process (SSA's electronic case processing system)
EME	Electronic Medical Evidence
EPE	Extended period of eligibility (36-month period wherein disability benefits may be reinstated following cessation of benefits due to work activity)
ERE	Electronic Records Express (part of eDib, includes medical and nonmedical electronic records)
FDDS	Federal Disability Determination Services (located in Baltimore, component under Deputy Commissioner for Operations)
Fed RO	Federal Reviewing Official (created under the Disability Services Initiative to replace the DDS reconsideration step; 2 nd step in administrative review process)
FO	Field Office (1300 local Social Security offices)
FSTAP	Future Systems Technology Advisory Panel
FTE	"Full time equivalent" used for staffing calculations
HALLEX	Hearings Office, Appeals, and Litigation Law manual is the process guide used in ODAR.
HO	Hearing Office (140 local administrative hearing offices)
HOCALJ	Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge (manages ALJs and is responsible for the overall management of a hearing office.)
HOD	Hearing Office Director (manages non-ALJ personnel in the hearing office)
IRM	Information Resources Management
LAE	Limitation on Administrative Expenses. In effect, SSA's appropriation for administrative costs.
MIE	Medical Improvement Expected (1-year diary to review continuing disability; entails a complete medical review.)
MINE	Medical Improvement Not Expected (7-year diary to review continuing disability. Usually conducted via questionnaire.)
MIP	Medical Improvement Possible (3-5 year diary to review continuing disability; entails a complete medical review.)
MIRS	Medical Improvement Review Standard (rules used in conducting

	continuing disability reviews)
MMA	Medicare Modernization Act
MVES	Medical-Vocational Expert System (part of DSI; network of medical and vocational experts that provides advice on disability claims. Experts review cases using the eDib system.)
NCDDD	National Council of Disability Determination Directors (professional organization of the state DDS directors.)
NCM	Nurse case manager
NCSSMA	National Council of Social Security Management Associations (professional organization of SSA field managers.)
NTEU	National Treasury Employees Union (labor union representing the attorneys in the disability adjudication review office)
OACT	Office of the Actuary
OASDI	Old-Age Survivors and Disability Insurance
OASI	Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
OCSO	Office of the Chief Strategic Officer
ODAR	Office of Disability Adjudication and Review
ODD	Office of Disability Determinations (component in DCO, responsible for DDS budget and workload)
ODISP	Office of Disability and Income Security Programs
ODP	Office of Disability Programs (component in ODISP, responsible for disability program policy)
OESP	Office of Employment Support Programs (component in ODISP, responsible for work incentive policies, Ticket to Work, and VR reimbursement)
OISP	Office of Income Security Programs (component in ODISP, responsible for retirement, survivors, and SSI program policy.)
OGC	Office of the General Counsel
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OMVE	Office of Medical and Vocational Expertise (component of ODISP)
OPDR	Office of Program Development and Research (component in ODISP, responsible for disability demonstrations and evaluations)
OQP	Office of Quality Performance (headed by the Chief Quality Officer)
ORC	Office of the Regional Commissioner (10 regions, component of DCO, manages regional FOs, DDSs, PSCs, TSCs)
ORES	Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (component of DCP)
PASS	Plan for Achieving Self Support (SSI work incentive tool)
PD	Presumptive Disability (SSI adjudication tool to expedite allowances in certain cases)
PII	Personal Identification Information
POMS	Programs Operations Manual System (program guidance compendium used by field office, DDS, and PSC adjudicators.)

PPO	Program Policy Online (improved electronic version of POMS)
PPWY	Productivity per Work Year (calculated by dividing the workload by the number of work years. 2080 hours = 1 work year.)
PRO	Professional Relations Officer – DDS employee who works on finding medical experts, getting medical sources to understand what evidence is needed and to utilize fax or other electronic submission.
PSC	Program Service Center (component of DCO, responsible for nonmedical adjudication of retirement, survivors, and disability cases)
QA	Quality Assurance (2 types of pre-effectuation review performed by the Disability Quality Branches; “QA” sample-70 allowances and 70 denials per quarter per DDS and 50% “PER” sample review of Title II allowances adjudicated by DDS.) SSI PER implemented in phased approach in FY 2006.
QDD	Quick Disability Determinations (created by DSI; identifies specific cases that are likely allowances and expedites the determination process.)
QPMS	Quality Performance Management System is being tested in the Kansas City Region ODAR. It is intended to “provide an integrated view of performance across the five quality dimensions (accuracy, cost, timeliness, productivity, and service. “ QPMS is yet to be developed for DDSs, FOs, or PSCs.
RC	Regional Commissioner (reports to Deputy Commissioner for Operations)
RCALJ	Regional Chief Administrative Law Judge (reports to the Chief Administrative Law Judge in ODAR)
RO	Regional Office (provides administrative and program support to FOs, DDSs, and PSCs under the line authority of the Regional Commissioner.)
RPC	Request for Program Consultation (process for resolving differing interpretations of program policy. Used by the DDSs and the Office of Quality Performance. The request is handled by the disability policy staff in ODISP.)
SGA	Substantial Gainful Activity (usually measured by a fixed earnings level per month. FY 2010 SGA level is \$1000 per month for non-blind individuals, and \$1640 for blind individuals.)
SRF	Source Reference File is used by the field offices to identify the exact name and address of health care providers. Using this extract of the DDS vendor file improves the accuracy of the information that is propagated into the electronic file.
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance (Title II)
SSI	Supplemental Security Income (Title XVI)
TERI	Terminal Illness case, receives expedited handling in the FO and DDS

TSC	Teleservice Center (also known as the "800 Number")
TTW	Or Ticket . The Ticket To Work and Work Incentives Improvement Program
TWP	Trial Work Period (9 months in which a beneficiary can try working; benefits are not stopped during these months regardless of earnings.)
VE	Vocational Expert (experts who testify at administrative hearings)
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation (usually refers to state agencies who provide services)