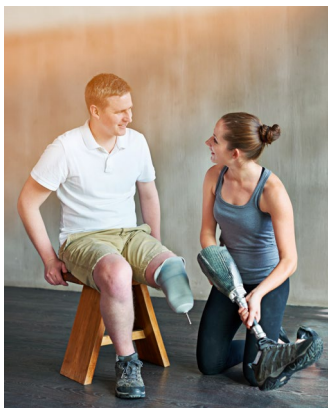


# Building an Occupational Requirements Database

To support the Social Security  
disability programs



## **The Social Security Administration (SSA) Provides Benefits for Disabled Americans**

SSA administers the two largest Federal programs that provide monthly cash benefits to disabled Americans - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

These programs provide a financial safety net for our elderly, poor, and disabled populations, some of America's most vulnerable groups. Few programs touch the lives of so many people.

### **How SSA Defines Disability for Adults**

SSA considers you disabled if you cannot work due to a physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last for a year or longer or is expected to result in death.



## SSA Needs to Know About Work Requirements in the Modern Economy

Determining whether people can work is central to SSA's disability programs. SSA considers whether individuals can perform their usual work or other types of work in the U.S. economy. For this reason, SSA needs an occupational database that describes the physical and mental requirements of a broad range of occupations.

The information about work that SSA currently uses has not been updated in more than 30 years.

## The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is Helping SSA Build a New Occupational Database

SSA is developing a modern database of occupational requirements with support from BLS. BLS employees are visiting employers across the U.S. to collect the type of information about occupations that SSA's disability programs need.

# Social Security Disability Insurance:

*Disability is unpredictable and can happen to anyone at any age. In fact, 1-in-4 of today's 20-year-olds who are insured for disability benefits become disabled before reaching retirement age.*

"I was 19 years old [body surfing]... as soon as I hit [the ocean floor], it was like switch, numb, no movement, doing the dead man's float in the Atlantic Ocean... I knew immediately that I had a serious injury to my neck."

**Tony**

Spinal Cord Injury



## How You Can Help

SSA needs help from employers across the U.S. We need to know about the requirements of occupations in your establishment, whether you run a small business or a large government agency.

Becoming disabled is not something people plan for, but chances are that someone close to you will one day rely on one of SSA's disability programs for support. By providing information about occupations to BLS, you will be supporting a disability process that will be there if you or a loved one need it.





Social Security is with you throughout life's journey, touching the lives of nearly every American, often during times of personal hardship, transition, and uncertainty. Our programs serve as vital financial protection for working men and women, children, disabled individuals, and elderly Americans.



For more information, you may visit our website at:  
[www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/occupational\\_info\\_systems.html](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/occupational_info_systems.html)