

## **GBHHSPC | July 21 2015 Presenters Q&A**

### **Reponses from Christine Endler, Chase Brexton Health Care**

#### **What makes PLWHA eligible for SSI/SSDI and does funding affect those decisions?**

A PLWHA has to meet medical and financial criteria for SSI/SSDI. SSDI is based on credits paid into the system. This is based on tax credits. The maximum that a worker who reaches full retirement age can receive is \$2663/ month. The average disabled worker is earning \$1165/month. The more work history that one has typically results in higher SSDI payments. SSI is considered unearned income. The medical criteria is the same but this is based on need. The most that an individual can currently get in SSI is \$733/month. There is an asset limit of \$2000/individual. If someone is getting “in kind support” which includes receiving any financial support (including rent, food, etc.) from another person, this amount may be reduced. RW funding has no influence over these decisions. The MD Disability Determination Services, which is housed in The Department of Education, makes the medical decision. The Social Security Administration makes the financial decision.

#### **What are the opportunistic illnesses that will get a person approved for SSI/SSDI more quickly?**

The opportunistic infections that will get someone approved more quickly for SSI/SSDI include cryptococcal meningitis, Kaposi’s Sarcoma, cardiomyopathy (not responsive to treatment), Pulmonary Tuberculosis (resistant to treatment), Toxoplasmosis (of an organ other than liver, spleen, or lymph nodes.) The full form to assess for presumptive or expedited benefits can be found at the link below. Please keep in mind that a physician filling out this form, is simply not enough for an approval. There would need to be medical documentation in the form of hospital or physician notes to in order to have a successful claim.

<http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/sites/www.hivlawandpolicy.org/files/Adult%20PDF.pdf>