

Helping the Homeless Access Life-Changing Benefits

SSI/SSDI Eligibility, Assessment and Advocacy Services

The Challenge: A Growing Epidemic

Across our great nation — from the foggy streets of San Francisco to the bright lights of New York City — homelessness is becoming an epidemic that we can no longer afford to ignore. According to a report issued by the White House in September 2019:

Over half a million people go homeless on a single night in the United States. Approximately 65 percent are found in homeless shelters, and the other 35 percent — just under 200,000 — are found unsheltered on our streets (in places not intended for human habitation, such as sidewalks, parks, cars, or abandoned buildings). Homelessness almost always involves people facing desperate situations and extreme hardship. They must make choices among very limited options, often in the context of extreme duress, substance abuse disorders, untreated mental illness, or unintended consequences from well-intentioned policies.¹

¹<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/The-State-of-Homelessness-in-America.pdf>



The time to act is now. And with over 30 years of experience helping vulnerable populations gain access to life-changing federal benefits, MAXIMUS has the qualifications and dedication critical to doing this important work.

Snapshot

MAXIMUS homelessness SSI/SSDI eligibility, assessment and advocacy services include:

- SSI/SSDI screening, assessment and advocacy services
- Housing application assistance — Section 8 Housing
- Assistance applying for TANF, cash assistance and SNAP
- Outreach services
- SSA Disability Hearing and Appeals assistance and representation
- Whole Person Care Initiatives — person — centered approach
- Tracking and monitoring systems
- Quality assurance review
- Trauma-informed case management
- Customer service contact centers
- Evaluation and reporting services
- Care coordination — housing, food, clothing
- Administrative support services, including data entry



The Solution

Proactive SSI/SSDI Eligibility, Assessment and Advocacy Services

The MAXIMUS approach involves partnering with state and local agencies serving displaced adults, including individuals facing or experiencing homelessness, to identify and work with those who are potentially eligible for SSI/SSDI benefits. Our proactive solution:

- Accurately screens and identifies potentially SSI/SSDI-eligible individuals to increase the number of approved applications and maximize resources
- Builds strong partnerships with local Social Security Administration (SSA) offices, medical providers, local agencies, and other organizations to gather required documentation quickly and effectively in order to build strong cases
- Prepares and submits all initial applications and continuing disability reviews, and advocates for benefits eligibility throughout the life of the case until a favorable decision is obtained, including all levels of appeals and hearings
- Leverages federal benefits to reduce financial burdens on state and local governments
- Assists individuals with gaining access to Medicaid, enabling them to receive care from a primary provider instead of relying on emergency services

The Results

Better Outcomes for the Homeless and Their Communities, Cost Savings for Governments

Providing SSI/SSDI eligibility, assessment, and advocacy services for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless is vital to helping them get back on their feet and into safe living environments. Just as importantly, doing so can help these individuals, as well as state and local governments, realize significant benefits, including:

- Providing for ongoing financial stability through SSI/SSDI benefits
- Assisting with easier access to healthcare via Medicaid
- Maximizing federal and state resources
- Achieving significant cost savings

One Focus, One Source

MAXIMUS has maintained a single focus on government service since 1975. Our dedicated professionals help government agencies provide essential health and human services with an innovative, compassionate approach and deep subject matter expertise. Every process, procedure and project we undertake is focused on delivering high-quality, cost-effective solutions that help government agencies fulfill their missions.