

Work Incentives: Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)

If you stopped getting your Social Security benefits because of your employment income, you may be able to restart your benefits without having to reapply. This is a work incentive called Expedited Reinstatement, or “EXR.”

What is Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)?

Expedited Reinstatement or EXR is a work incentive that may allow you to restart your Social Security benefits if your benefits were suspended due to work. Expedited Reinstatement can restart your benefits, without requiring you to reapply for Social Security benefits.

Who can get EXR?

You may be able to get Social Security to reinstate your benefits through EXR if you meet all of these conditions:

- You received Social Security (SSDI or SSI) benefits within five years of when you apply for EXR, and
- Your benefits stopped due to money you made from working, and
- You are no longer able to work, or you cannot work enough to make Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) due to the disability you had when you last received benefits.

How do I apply for EXR?

You can apply for EXR by contacting Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. You should tell the representative that you want to file for Expedited Reinstatement.

What happens after I apply for EXR?

When you call and ask for Expedited Reinstatement, Social Security may ask you some questions on the phone to decide whether or not you are eligible. They may also send you some paperwork in the mail that you will need to fill out and return to Social Security.

Can I get benefits while Social Security is deciding on my EXR application?

Maybe. If Social Security decides you are likely eligible for EXR, they may approve you to get “provisional payments” while they decide on your EXR application. Provisional payments are cash benefits that are meant to help you pay your living expenses while Social Security decides on your EXR application. Your provisional payment amount is based on the amount you were getting in disability payments. You can get provisional payments for up to six months while Social Security is deciding on your EXR application.

Social Security approved my EXR application. What does that mean?

If Social Security finds you are eligible for Expedited Reinstatement, your provisional payments will stop, and Social Security will pay you your full disability payment. Your benefits will continue unless Social Security decides you are no longer eligible. If you want to try work again, you should consult with a benefits counselor.

Social Security denied my EXR application. Will I have to pay back the provisional payments that I received?

Usually not. You generally will not have to pay Social Security back for provisional benefits, unless Social Security thinks you engaged in fraud in your EXR application. Social Security ultimately makes the decision about whether or not you need to pay back provisional benefits.

Social Security denied my EXR application. May I submit a new application for disability benefits?

Yes. Social Security will treat this as an initial application for benefits. You will have to tell them about all of your conditions and diagnoses, your medical treatment, medications, etc., just like the first time you applied for benefits. If Social Security approves your application, they may use the date of your EXR application as the retroactive date of your disability.

I have not received SSD or SSI benefits for more than five years. Can I apply for EXR?

No. EXR is only available within five years of the date Social Security stopped your benefits due to your income or work. If you are not eligible for EXR, you can choose to file a new application for disability benefits.

My benefits were terminated last year because Social Security said I was not disabled anymore. Can I apply for EXR?

No. To be eligible for EXR, you must have lost your benefits because of your employment income, not because Social Security terminated your benefits due to a disability determination.

I am no longer working because I quit my job. Can I still apply for EXR?

Yes, if you meet the other EXR requirements. Under old Social Security rules, you could only get EXR if you lost work due to your disability. Now, you can get EXR if you lose work for any reason, including quitting your job. However, to get EXR, Social Security must find that you are unable to perform SGA due to your original or related disability.

I have more questions about EXR. Where can I go to for help?

Since EXR is a work incentive, if you have more questions, or want to see if someone can help you determine if you are eligible for EXR, you can call the Ticket to Work helpline at 1-866-968-7842 / 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday from 8 am - 8 pm ET. They will refer you to a benefits counselor.

**If you have questions or need legal assistance,
please call the Legal Aid line at (513) 241-9400.**