



Senate Bill 2012

Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Chairman

Disability Determination Services | January 17, 2023



Health & Human Services



Who we serve

The Disability Determination Section delivers disability determinations to those applying for Social Security Disability Benefits

About Disability Determination Services

The Social Security disability program provides Social Security Disability Insurance (**SSDI**) and/or Supplemental Security Income (**SSI**) benefits to persons with disabilities who are unable to work

100% federally funded

of disability decisions is determined by Social Security Admin (SSA)

Staff make medical disability determinations using SSA guidelines

3 main claim levels:

- Initial claims
- Reconsideration claims
- Continuing Disability Reviews

Disability Determination Services Section

Making disability determinations collaborating with Social Security, medical providers and claimants across the state, using 100% federal funds

Dept of Health and Human Services

DDS staff and contracted medical consultants review claims for medical evidence to make the disability determination

Social Security Administration

- Receives and reviews disability applications for benefit eligibility, sends to DDS to make the disability determination
- Handles the notification and appeals process for claimants
- Handles payment processes for those found disabled

Medical providers

- Provide medical records for claimants to assist in the determination process
- Provide consultative examination services for those who need further medical evidence for the determination process

Claimants

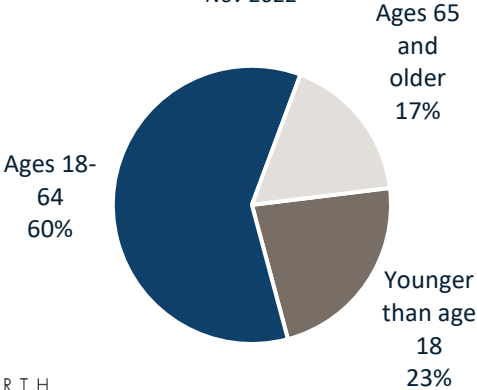
Assist in the disability determination process by providing their medical source information, completing forms and attending consultative examinations

Who benefits from the Social Security Disability programs?

SSI

“To be eligible for SSI, beneficiaries must have low incomes, limited assets, and either be age 65 or older or have an impaired ability to work at a substantial gainful level as a result of significant disability.”

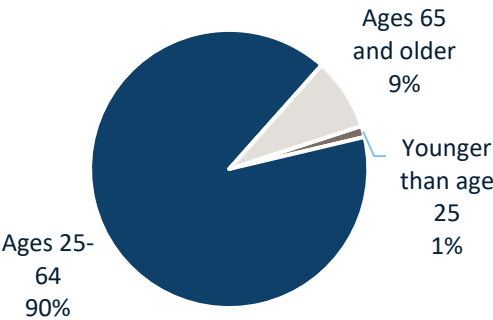
SSI beneficiaries in U.S.
Nov 2022



SSDI

“Unlike SSI, there are no income or asset limits for SSDI eligibility. Instead, to qualify for SSDI, enrollees must have a sufficient work history (generally, 40 quarters) and meet the strict federal disability rules.”

SSDI beneficiaries in U.S.
Nov 2022



Source: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/supplemental-security-income-for-people-with-disabilities-implications-for-medicaid/>



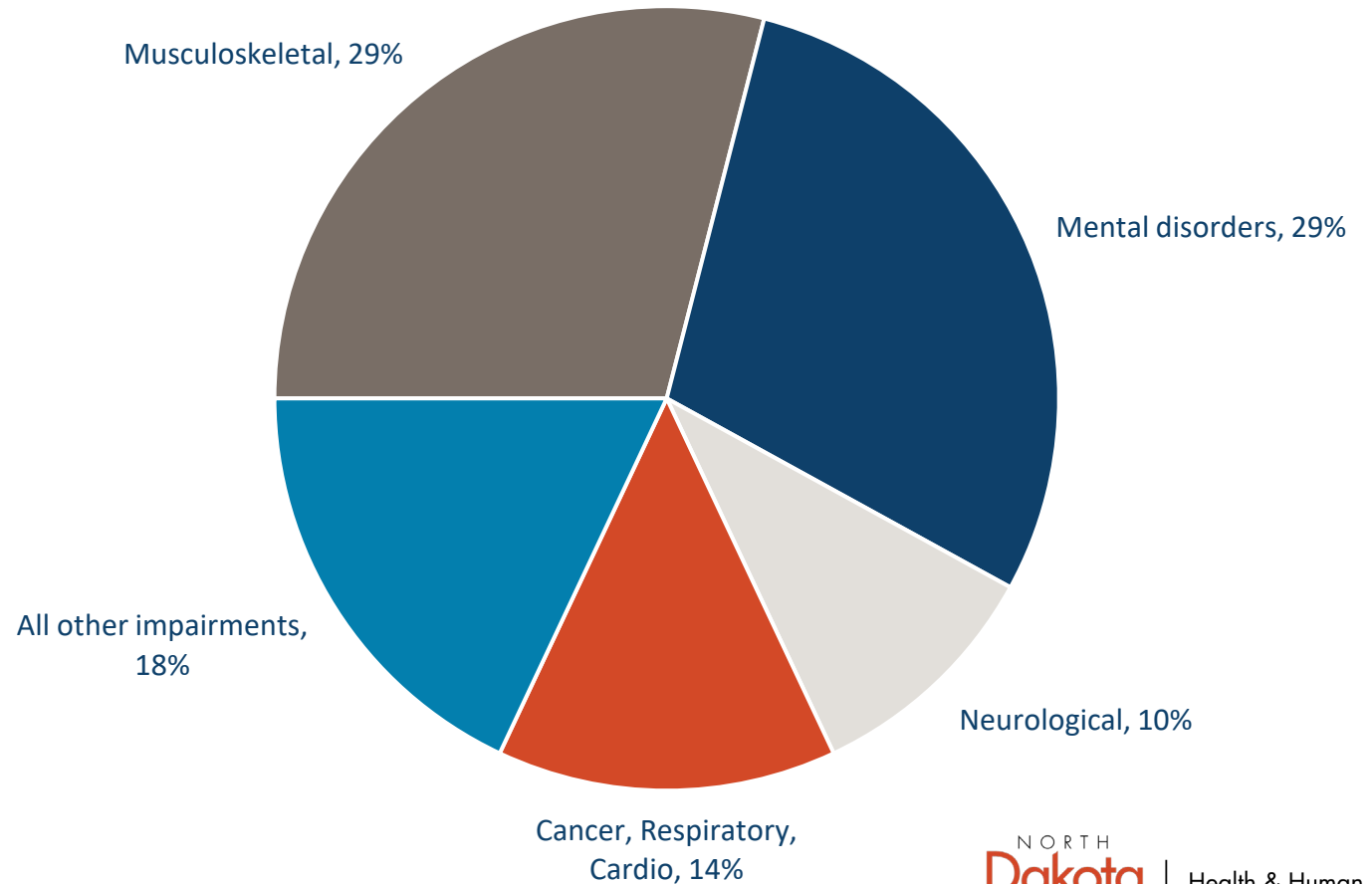
Primary reason (by body system) for initial claims for SSDI/SSI

North Dakota snapshot federal fiscal year 2022

- “The Listing of Impairments describes, for each major body system, impairments considered severe enough to prevent an individual from doing any gainful activity (or in the case of children under age 18 applying for SSI, severe enough to cause marked and severe functional limitations).
- “Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or the listing includes a specific statement of duration.
- “For all other listings, the evidence must show that the impairment has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

Source:

<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/listing-impairments.htm>



Improving the lives of North Dakotans

Social Security benefits provide a source of income for disabled North Dakotans

SSI

\$560

Average monthly payment

\$4.1 million

Total monthly SSI benefits to
North Dakotans

SSDI

\$1,159

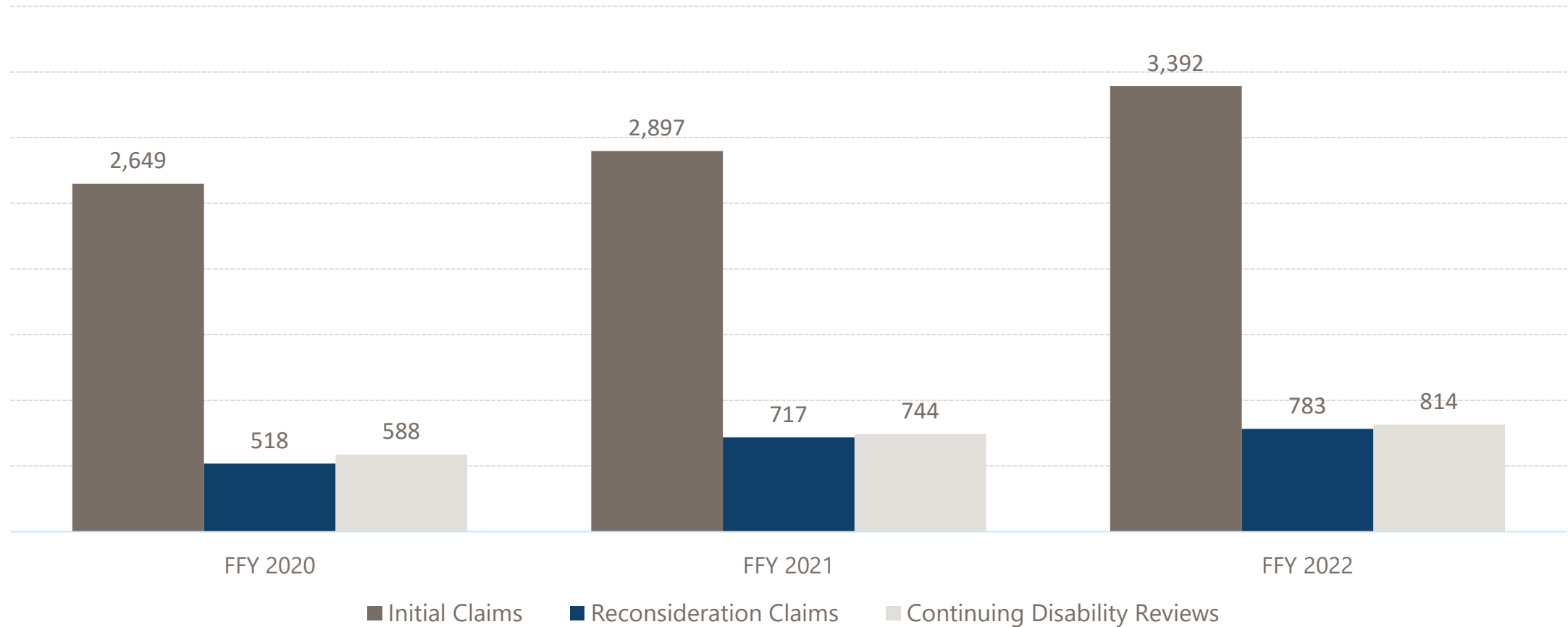
Average monthly payment

\$18.25 million

Total monthly SSDI benefits
to North Dakotans



Initial claims decisions for SSDI/SSI disability determination increased by 26% from FY 20 to FY22



Disability Determination Services (DDS)

Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$4,111,333	\$471,085	\$4,582,418
Operating	1,364,526	171,112	1,535,638
IT Services	3,500	-	3,500
Capital Asset Expense	-	-	-
Capital Assets	-	-	-
Grants	1,650,000	-	1,650,000
Total	\$7,129,359	\$642,197	\$7,771,556

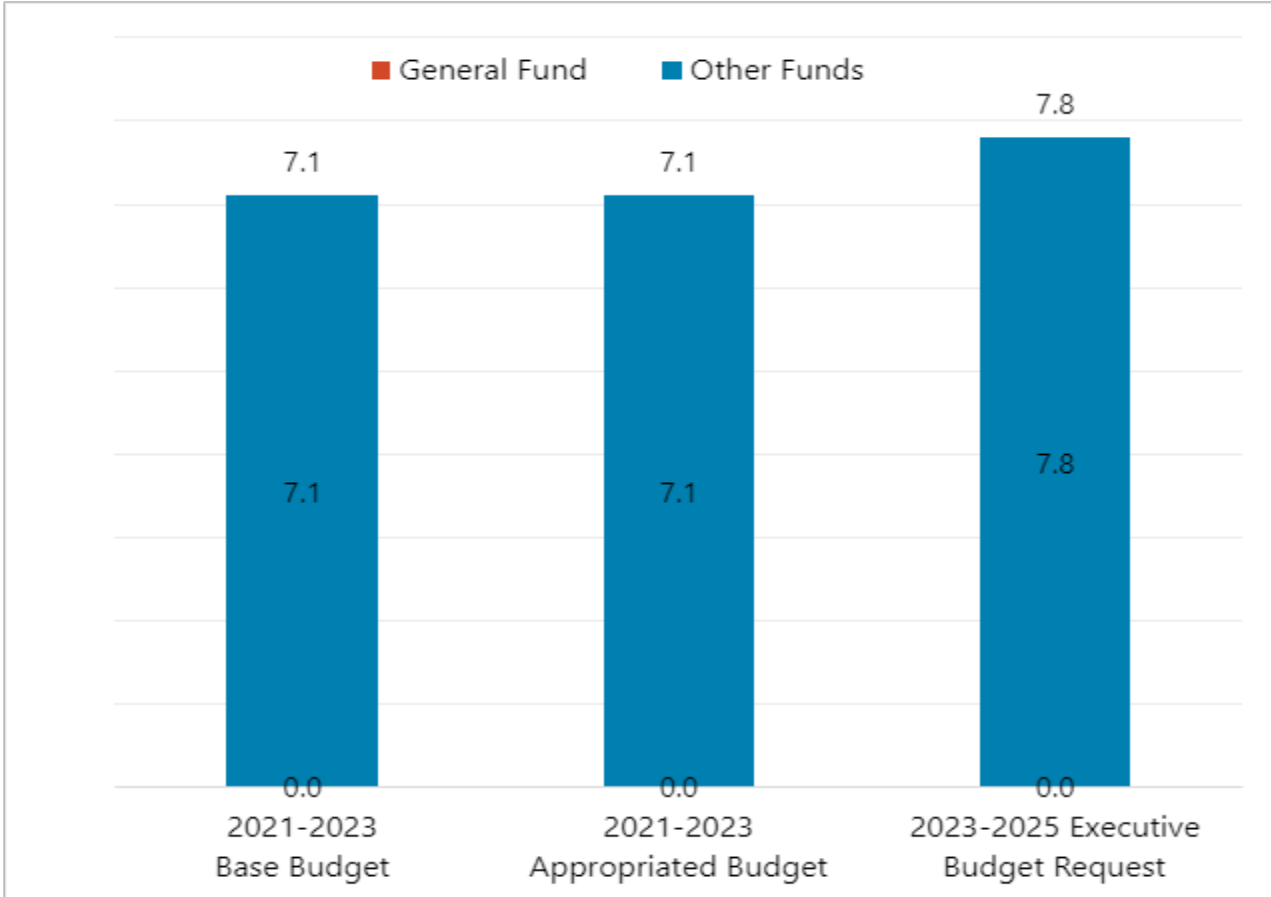
General Fund	\$-	\$-	\$-
Federal Funds	7,129,359	642,197	7,771,556
Other Funds	-	-	-
Total Funds	\$7,129,359	\$642,197	\$7,771,556

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	23.00	-	23.00
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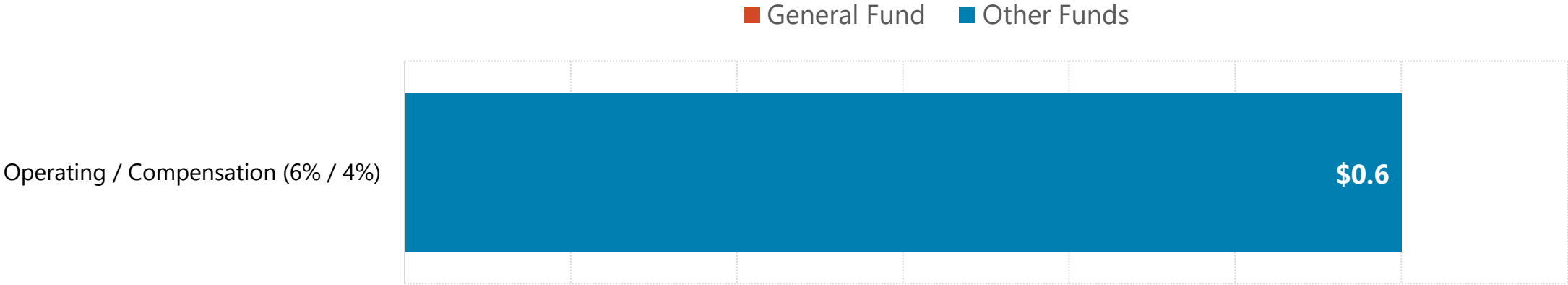
Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION
\$0.6 MILLION

- \$471,000 for Salaries and Wages
- \$171,000 for Operating costs



Overview of budget changes (IN MILLIONS)





Contact information

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