SSI PRE-CONFERENCE BOOT CAMP
Supplemental Security Income: A Vital Benefit for People with Disabilities

NOSSCR’s Annual Social Security Disability Conference
May 17, 2020 | 8:45am-3:00pm | Hyatt Regency Chicago

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program is more critical than ever for the financial security of millions of our nation’s most vulnerable individuals. Join experts from leading advocacy organizations for a special pre-conference designed for advocates who focus on establishing and maintaining clients’ eligibility for SSI. For this special offering at the outset of the conference, lunch and materials will be provided on site, CLE is available, and there is a separate registration required with a fee of $150. Click here to register today.

8:45 – 9:00 am
Welcome and Introductions

9:00 – 10:15 am
Overpayments, Appeals, and Waivers
Kate Lang, Justice in Aging
John Whitelaw, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (DE)
An overpayment of SSI benefits occurs whenever an individual receives money that SSA later claims he or she was not entitled to. This presentation will review overpayment options and steps advocates can take to enforce clients’ due process rights.

10:15 – 10:30
Morning Break

10:30 am – 12:00pm
Cessations: Continuing Disability Reviews and 18 Year Old Reviews
Jennifer Burdick, Community Legal Services (PA)
Richard Weishaupt, Community Legal Services (PA)
In recent years, SSA’s administrative funding has required the agency to complete an increased number of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) and 18 year old reviews. We will examine the sequence of review, the burden of proof required under a CDR and SSA’s duties in conducting CDRs, as well as cover what is included in an “age 18” review for those who started receiving SSI benefits as children. We will also discuss the recent Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM) on CDRs and its implications for SSI recipients.
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Lunch and networking

1:00 – 2:00 pm
Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts
Presenter(s) TBD
On far too many occasions, our clients receive funds from various sources (personal injury settlements, inheritances, lottery winnings) that threaten their eligibility for SSI. Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts are two mechanisms that can avoid these problems. In this session, we will cover the basics of both of these options as a means of preserving SSI for vulnerable clients.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
Immigrant Eligibility for SSI
Carrie Chapman, Legal Council for Health Justice (IL)
SSA rules for determining non-citizen eligibility are complex and frequently confusing to potential claimants. Recent changes to immigration rules regarding use of benefits add another layer of issues to address when working with non-citizens. In this session, we will cover basic non-citizen eligibility rules, frequently asked questions in this area, and how we can advise claimants on the changes to the “public charge” immigration test and their choices about benefits use.

3:00 pm
Closing