



Initial Social Security Application Certification

Helping Texans Access the Benefits They've Earned

A skill-based training offered by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid and Lone Star Legal Aid through the Community Justice Workers of Texas Program

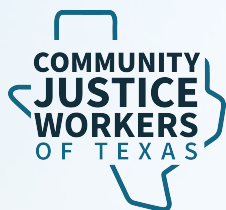
Your community members face real barriers. We can help your team address them. When community members are trying to navigate Social Security disability benefits, the process can feel confusing, overwhelming, and easy to give up on. This free training gives your staff and volunteers the knowledge and tools to help.

What your community members face

- Missed benefits due to not knowing which program to apply for
- Delayed applications from missing or disorganized documents
- Denied claims from poorly described limitations
- Lost benefits from unreported changes in income or work activity
- Long waits for decisions

What your team will be equipped to do

- Explain the differences between SSI and SSDI and recognize who may qualify for each
- Help community members gather documents and organize their application materials
- Guide community members through setting up a mySSA account and choosing how to apply
- Help applicants describe their limitations clearly and accurately on Function Reports
- Explain what happens after an application is submitted, including next steps and reporting requirements
- Know when to connect community members with legal aid for appeals, overpayments, and complex issues



Stipend Available: Eligible participants who complete their CJW certification may receive a needs-based \$500 stipend.

Initial Social Security Application Certification The free training is online and self-paced, taking approximately 8 hours to complete. Your team will not provide legal advice. The courses equip them to recognize issues, share credible legal information, and make referrals when appropriate.

Who should apply

Staff and volunteers at participating Partner Organizations

Types of Partner Organizations:

- Community Organizing Groups
- Housing and homelessness organizations
- Workforce development and reentry programs
- Domestic violence programs
- Faith-based outreach ministries
- Financial coaching programs



How this benefits your organization

Partner organizations gain:

- Deeper capacity to serve community members navigating SSI, SSDI, and related benefits
- Staff equipped to spot eligibility, document gaps, and reporting issues before they become problems
- Direct referral pathways to Texas Legal Services Center and Lone Star Legal Aid for those who need it most
- Reduced risk of staff inadvertently providing legal advice
- A meaningful professional development opportunity for your team



Ready to get started?

Join as a CJW: cjwtexas.org/apply

Become a Partner Organization: cjwtexas.org/partner

Questions: info@cjwtexas.org