

# An Evidence-Based Path to Disability Insurance Reform

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# Early Intervention

- **A Work-First Intervention within SSA's Existing Determination Process**
  - Screening tool to identify candidates likely to be awarded benefits.
  - Test a variety of work activation packages including wage supplements and services.
  - Voluntary participation conditional on suspension of DI/SSI claim.
- **State-Initiated Early-Intervention Experiments**
  - Waiver authority to innovate across programs and target groups at risk of DI/SSI receipt.
  - Incentive funding to reward success relative to a baseline.
  - Success measured in terms of improved participant outcomes, not tighter benefit eligibility review at DDS.

# Employer-Based Incentives

- **Voluntary participation**
  - Firms would realize most of the savings achieved after the threshold is reached.
  - Private disability insurers could partner with employers and share the realized credit.
- **Outcomes measured relative to a prior baseline and/or a comparison group**
  - Welcome other evaluation design approaches.
- **Options to reduce or eliminate the risk of hiring discrimination**

# Improve the Disability Determination System

- **Convert SSA's budget for State DDSs to mandatory funding and provide SSA greater authority to manage DDS performance, so that SSA could:**
  - Develop an enhanced appeals resolution process.
  - Establish performance goals for timelines of initial determinations and improve consistency across states.
  - Implement a multi-year plan to eliminate the continuing disability review (CDR) backlog.
  - Improve and standardize the collection of evidence and test protocols for assessing claims.
  - Establish a national standard for certification of med/voc experts and expand the national cadre of such experts.