



House Bill 1012

House Appropriations | Human Resources Division

Representative Jon Nelson, Chairman

Disability Determination Services

NORTH
Dakota | Human Services
Be Legendary.™

DDS MISSION

To improve the quality of life for North Dakotans with disabilities who apply for or receive Social Security Administration disability benefits, by making timely, consistent and accurate disability determinations.



THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES (DDS) PROGRAM



- 100% federally funded
- DDS staff make medical disability determinations using Social Security Administration (SSA) guidelines
- 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

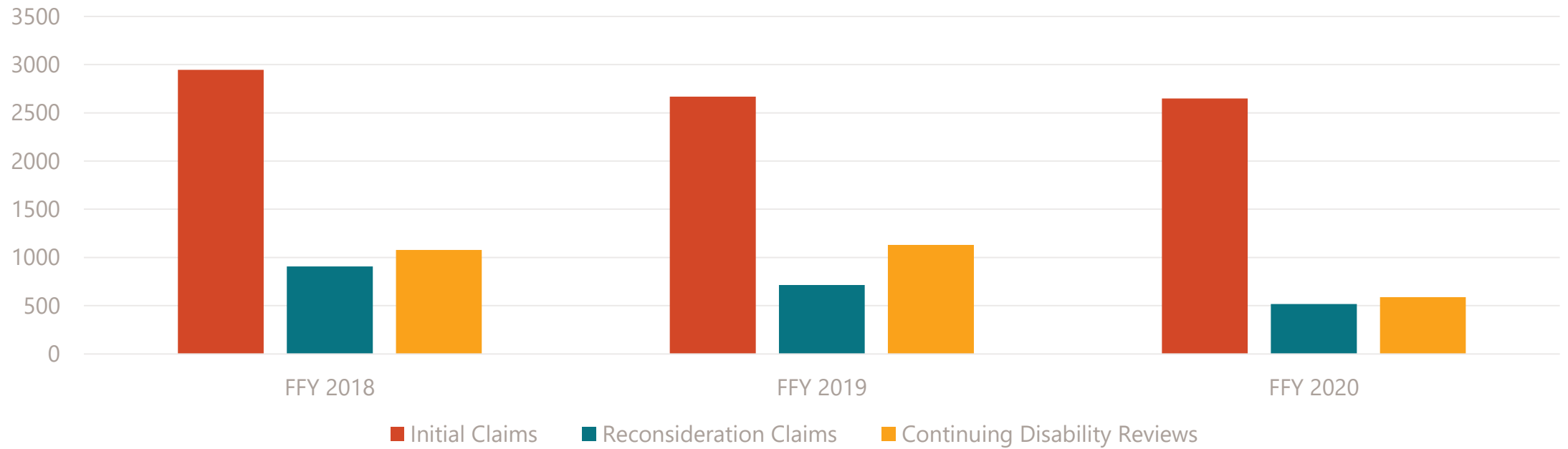
DISABILITY DECISIONS



- The DDS processes disability determinations for the Social Security Administration for 3 main claim levels:
 - Initial claims
 - Reconsideration claims
 - Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR)
- The number of disability decisions that the DDS makes each year is determined by the Social Security Administration

DISABILITY DECISION STATISTICS

Decisions completed



COVID-19 IMPACTS

- The DDS was directed by the SSA to temporarily suspend some service delivery activities due to the pandemic
- Those activities were focused on avoiding certain adverse actions that would result in a reduction, suspension or termination of Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefits.
- Safety considerations were also of chief concern, so we did not:
 - Schedule consultative examinations
 - Schedule in-person disability hearings

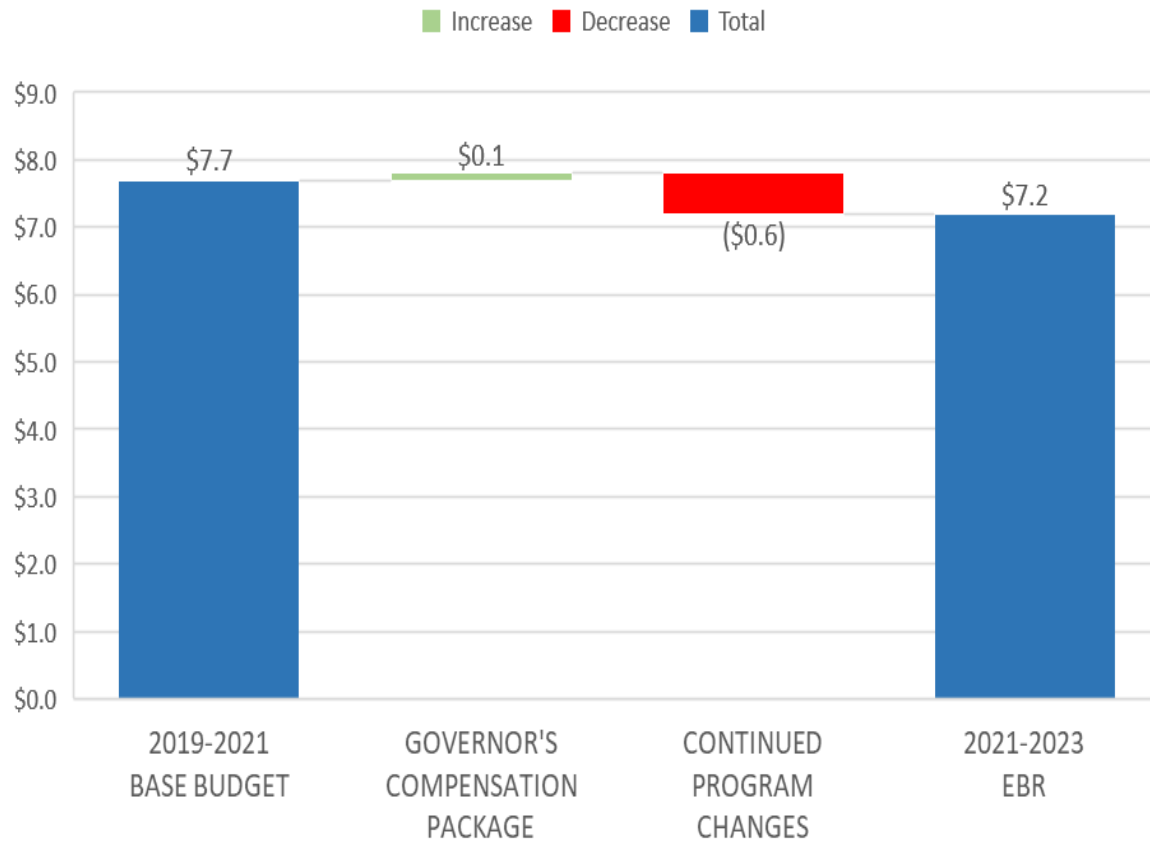


OVERVIEW OF BUDGET CHANGES

Description	2019-2021 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	2021-2023 Executive Budget
Salaries	3,983,988	164,425	4,148,413
Operating	1,728,174	(360,148)	1,368,026
Grants	1,970,000	(320,000)	1,650,000
Total	7,682,162	(515,723)	7,166,439
General Fund	0	0	0
Federal Funds	7,682,162	(515,723)	7,166,439
Other Funds	0	0	0
Total	7,682,162	(515,723)	7,166,439
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	23.00	0	23.00

DDS TOTAL FUNDS (IN MILLIONS)

Disability Determination Services Total Funds
(in Millions)



- **CONTINUED PROGRAM CHANGES:**
 - \$.034 for Medical Consultants related to new claims system
 - (\$.033) for travel costs
 - (\$.320) for Medical evidence
 - (\$.375) for Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) Unit

SSA DISABILITY PAYMENTS TO ND CITIZENS



Data from September 2020

Social Security Disability payments (SSDI)

Amount of Benefits Paid:

\$17.5 million paid monthly in disability benefits

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Amount of Benefits Paid:

\$4.1 million paid monthly to blind/disabled residents