

Do you want to learn how work would affect your benefits? (full time, part time, seasonal, higher paying job, return to work, start your own business)

Answers are available to you! Get an understanding of how work affects your disability benefits and other benefits you may receive from Federal, State, and local programs.

Benefits Counseling First: WIPA



Are you an SSI or SSDI beneficiary?



Are you interested in working?

WHAT IS BENEFITS COUNSELING?



WIPA Projects benefits counseling includes information and planning services about work and Social Security work incentives.

WHO PROVIDES FREE BENEFITS COUNSELING?



WIPA Projects provide FREE benefits counseling to Social Security and SSI disability beneficiaries.

WHY IS BENEFITS COUNSELING IMPORTANT?

Social Security Administration has arranged for Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) to inform you of accurate and personalized information to:

- ✓ Know your options
- ✓ Understand your choices
- ✓ Make decisions



To locate the WIPA organization nearest you for more information about free benefits counseling, please call 1-866-968-7842 (Voice) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).

A Few Important Terms To Help Get Your Conversation Started:

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI) –

Benefits for people considered with a disability by Social Security Administration's criteria, who have worked enough to qualify for benefits.

TICKET TO WORK –

Incentive program through Social Security Administration to encourage beneficiaries of SSDI and SSI to attempt to return to work and provides additional protections to disability benefits.
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/index.html>

SSI –

Federal income supplement program that provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income.

EARNINGS –

Earnings or earned income is money from working. Gross earnings is the amount of money from working before taxes is deduct.

RESOURCES –

Anything own, ones' assets. For example – cash, cars, stocks, bank account, or other property own that one can use to support oneself.

INCOME –

Income includes cash, checks, and other things you get that can be used for food or shelter.

MEDICAID –

Public health insurance program funded by Federal and State. Coverage provided to adults with low income, pregnant women, children, elderly adults, blind, and or people with disabilities.

MEDICARE –

Health coverage provided by the Federal program for recipients of SSDI and other SSA benefits except SSI.

IRWE –

Impairment related work expenses are costs associated with items and services a recipient of SSDI and or SSI need to be used for work.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) –

VR is a U.S. Department of Education funded program to help people with functional, psychological, developmental, cognitive and emotional impairments or health disabilities to find, get, keep work or return to work. <http://www.rehabworks.org/customers.shtml>

EMPLOYMENT NETWORK –

A provider, under contract with Social Security, delivers free career counseling, job placement, and ongoing employment supports and services to Social Security disabilities beneficiaries.

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS) –

Provides legal support, advocacy and information to help SSI and or SSDI beneficiaries with disability-related employment issues and concerns.