

THE WORK SITE

Social Security Online

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Employment Support For People with Disabi

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Our Mission is to promote the employment of Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities by...

- Designing policies that make work pay.
- Promoting research and program innovation.
- Educating the public about programs and services that facilitate entry into the workforce.
- Partnering with other public and private groups to remove employment barriers for people with disabilities.

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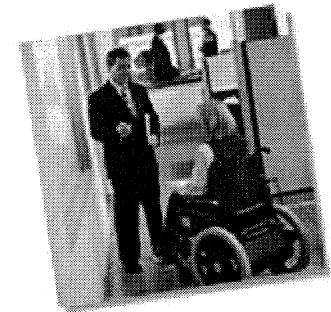
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Helping People Find Job Opportunities



Commissioner Barnhart at Ticket to Work Program Second Phase Kick Off



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TICKET TO WORK

http://www.ssa.gov/work/Ticket/ticket_info.html

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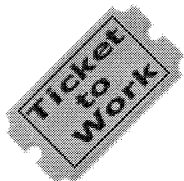
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Ticket To Work



This section of The Work Site contains information on the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-170), and the Ticket to Work Program.

Visit the [Ticket Tracker](#) for the latest statistics on the Ticket to Work Program.

Ticket Information For You

- ▶ [Are you a Beneficiary or Advocate?](#)
- ▶ [Are you a Service Provider?](#)

Ticket Support Services

Benefits Planning Assistance Outreach (BPAO)

Need help with making choices about going to work? **Free** help is available from Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach organizations in every State for SSA Disability Beneficiaries.

- ▶ [Fact Sheet](#)
- ▶ [Contact Information](#)

Protection and Advocacy (PA)

Need help with getting information and legal advice on vocational rehabilitation, employment services or other work related matters? **Free** help is available in every state for SSA disability beneficiaries from Protection and Advocacy Organizations.

- ▶ [Fact Sheet](#)
- ▶ [Contact Information](#)

MAXIMUS, Inc.

General Information on the Ticket to Work Program

- ▶ [A Free National Referral Service for Employers -- TICKET TO HIRE](#)
- ▶ [Final Regulations](#)
 - [Powerpoint Presentation Describing the Ticket to Work Program](#)
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- ▶ [Second Phase of Ticket to Work Program Begins -- Press Release](#)
- ▶ [Your Ticket To Work: What You Need to Know to Keep it Working for You](#)

Ticket Schedule of Events

Want to know about Ticket related events?

- ▶ [Schedule](#)

Visit These Other Resources for Additional Information

- ▶ [Ticket to Work and Work](#)

MAXIMUS, Inc. is a private contractor helping us to manage the Ticket to Work Program. MAXIMUS, Inc. can be reached at their toll-free numbers, 1-866-968-7842 (1-866-YOURTICKET) or 1-866-833-2967 TTY (1-866-TDD 2 WORK). Visit their website for additional information at www.yourtickettowork.com.

Incentives Advisory Panel

► Department of Labor/ Employment and Training Administration

► Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service

Formerly Health Care Financing Administration

Ticket History Room

► H.R. 1180 Signed Into Law as P.L. 106-170

► Notice of Proposed Rule Making

► Summary of Public Comments

Ticket Tracker
Updated October 14, 2003

State	Tickets Issued	Employment Networks Awards Cumulative	Ticket Assignments to Employment Networks
AK	14,095	3	4
AR	130,315	15	63
AZ	159,747	25	245
CO	99,561	18	31
CT	91,485	11	24
DC	20,035	7	19
DE	25,744	4	14
FL	555,975	65	429
GA	276,604	20	99
IA	83,692	29	62
IL	376,977	63	240
IN	183,761	29	40
KS	68,164	17	48
KY	243,717	18	31
LA	192,988	14	55
MA	232,915	46	98
MI	345,270	56	126

MO	204,777	33	94
MS	154,667	5	132
MT	27,170	8	1
ND	14,738	5	2
NH	35,027	4	9
NJ	210,620	26	88
NM	61,318	10	8
NV	53,607	14	104
NY	699,748	103	375
OK	127,055	8	12
OR	104,726	28	67
SC	179,044	16	47
SD	19,565	3	1
TN	246,128	16	235
VA	213,140	26	110
VT	21,716	2	1
WI	156,262	26	122
National/ other	N/A	10	N/A
Totals	5,630,353	783	3,036

For State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Ticket to Work Program statistics visit the [State Ticket Tracker](#).

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WITH DISABILITIES**

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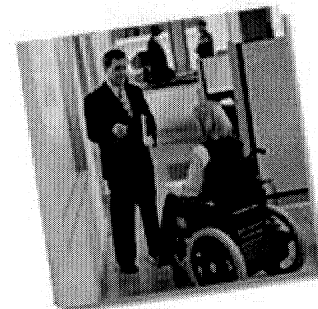
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RESOURCES TOOLKIT

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Resources Toolkit

This section contains a broad range of resources that are relevant for various customers.

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[Employers](#)

- [Employment Resources for Job Seekers with Disabilities Resume Writing and Job Searches](#)

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- [Resources for Employers Hiring People with Disabilities Initiatives, Referral Services, Resumes and other Web Sites](#)

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- [Partner Zone Descriptions and Links to Public and Non-Public Organizations That Serve the Disability Community](#)

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- [Publications and Forms SSA Publications & Forms, Request a Publication in an Alternate Format](#)

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- [Putting Creativity to Work: Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities](#)
A resource for visual, literary, or performing artists with a disability pursuing employment in the arts
- [Red Book](#)
Publication That Details SSA's Work Incentive Policies and Programs
- [Regulations](#)
Proposed Rules, Public Comments, and Final Rules
- [Search for VR Providers](#)
Public and Nonpublic Rehabilitation Providers Contact Information
- [Software That Accounts for the Interaction of Income, Benefit Programs, and Work Incentives](#)
- [Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Link to Website](#)



The tools you need to find the information you seek

- [Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act](#)
The Ticket to Work Program is the centerpiece of new legislation under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999.
- [Work Incentives](#)
Social Security's Programs and Policies That Help Working People with Disabilities

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Glossary

Terms used in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Programs.

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A

Alternate Participants

A public or private agency, except the designated participating State VR agency or agency for the blind, that SSA determined is qualified to provide VR services and with whom SSA have signed a contract to provide such services to SSDI/SSI disability beneficiaries.

An Individual Work Plan (IWP)

A required written document signed by an EN (other than a State vocational rehabilitation agency) and a beneficiary, or a representative of a beneficiary, with a ticket to outline the specific employment services, vocational rehabilitation services and other support services that the EN and beneficiary have determined are necessary to achieve the beneficiary's stated employment goal.

A Ticket Under the Ticket to Work Program

A document which provides evidence of the Commissioner's agreement to pay an employment network or a State vocational rehabilitation agency, to which a disabled beneficiary's ticket is assigned, for providing employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, and other support services to the beneficiary.

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B

Blind Work Expenses (SSI)

If you are blind, when we determine your SSI eligibility and payment amount we do not count any earned

BPAO (Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach Program)	<p>income that you use to meet expenses in earning the income.</p> <p>BPAO is a cooperative agreement program for community based organizations as established by Section 121 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act Of 1999, Public Law 106-170. The purpose of the BPAO program is to disseminate accurate information to SSA's beneficiaries with disabilities about work incentives to better enable them to make informed choices about work. Each BPAO organization has Benefits Specialists who will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide work incentives planning and assistance ● Conduct outreach to beneficiaries and their families ● Work in cooperation with Federal, State, private agencies, and nonprofit organizations that serve beneficiaries with disabilities
Break-Even Point	<p>The dollar amount of total income that will (after applicable deductions are applied) reduce the SSI payment to zero in a given set of case facts. Your break-even point depends on your earned and unearned income, living arrangement, applicable income exclusions, and State supplement, if any. While useful for discussion purposes, this term does not appear in the SSI rules.</p>

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C

Continuation of Medicare Coverage (SSDI)	<p>You can receive at least 93 consecutive months of hospital and medical insurance after the trial work period. This provision allows health insurance to continue when you go to work and are engaging in SGA.</p>
Continuing Disability Review (SSDI and SSI)	<p>Our process of obtaining complete current information about your condition and any work activity to decide if your SSDI and/or SSI benefits should continue.</p>
Cost Reimbursement Payment System	<p>The system providing payment from SSA to State vocational rehabilitation agencies and alternate participants for reasonable and necessary costs for vocational rehabilitation services to Social Security and Supplemental</p>

Security Income beneficiaries with disabilities.

Countable Income (SSI) The amount of money left after we eliminate all amounts that are not income and apply all appropriate exclusions to your total income. We use this amount to determine your SSI eligibility and payment amounts.

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D

Deeming (SSI) Our process of considering some of the income and resources of your parent, or spouse, or sponsor (if you are an alien) to be your income and resources when you are applying for or receiving SSI benefits.

Definition of Disability - Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity because of physical or mental impairment(s) which has lasted or can be expected to last for at least 12 months or can be expected to result in death.

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E

Employment Network (EN) A qualified public or private organization that has entered into an agreement with SSA to function as an employment network under the Ticket to Work program and assume responsibility for the coordination and delivery of employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support services to beneficiaries who have assigned their tickets to that employment network.

Employment Plan An individual work plan under which an employment network (other than a State vocational rehabilitation agency) provides services to a Social Security or Supplemental Security Income beneficiary with a disability under the Ticket to Work program, or an individualized plan for employment under which a State vocational rehabilitation agency provides services.

Expedited Reinstatement Our process of allowing qualified individuals to request reinstatement of benefits, without having to file a new application. They will receive up to six months of provisional benefits while we make a decision on their request.

Extended Period of Eligibility (SSDI) 36 consecutive months following the trial work period when, if you qualify, we may reinstate your SSDI benefits without a new application, disability determination, or waiting period.

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I

Impairment-Related Work Expenses (SSDI and SSI) We deduct the cost of items and services that you need to work because of your impairment (e.g., attendant care services, medical devices, etc.) when we decide if you are engaging in SGA. It does not matter if you also need the items for normal daily activities. We can usually deduct the cost of these same items from earned income to figure your SSI payment.

Income (SSI) SSI income is:

- Earned income -- money received from wages, including from a sheltered workshop or work activity center, self-employment earnings, and some royalties and honoraria; and
- Unearned income -- money received from all other sources, e.g., gifts, interest, Social Security, Veteran's benefits, pensions. Unearned Income also includes "in-kind income" (free food, clothing or shelter) and "deemed income" (some of the income of a spouse, or parent, or sponsor of an alien).

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M

Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California, AHCCS in Arizona) (SSI) Medical coverage provided to a person by the State title XIX program.

Medicaid Protection for People with Disabilities Who Work For people with disabilities who: have earnings that are too high to qualify under current rules; or are at least 16, but less than 65 years of age, and meet state resource and income limits, a state may provide Medicaid coverage. A state may also provide Medicaid coverage to these individuals when they lose coverage due to medical improvement, but still have a medically determinable severe impairment.

Medical Improvement When we decide you have a

Expected (SSDI and SSI)	disabling impairment, and we also decide that the disabling impairment (s) may improve, we document that your case will need a future review.
Medicare (SSDI)	Two-part health insurance program for eligible disabled individuals and people age 65 or older: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Insurance under Medicare (HI, Part A); and • Supplementary Medical Insurance under Medicare (SMI, Part B). In addition, there is coverage for some people who are not disabled with end-stage renal disease.
Medicare for People With Disabilities Who Work (SSDI)	Some people with disabilities who have returned to work can buy continued Medicare coverage when their premium-free Medicare ends due to work activity. States are required to help pay the hospital insurance premiums for some working individuals with disabilities.

MINE Medical Improvement Not Expected.

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O

Outcome-Milestone Payment System	The system providing a schedule of payments under the Ticket to Work program to an employment network that includes, in addition to payments during the outcome payment period, payment for completion by a beneficiary of milestones directed toward the goal of permanent employment.
Outcome Payment System	The system providing a payments under the Ticket to Work program to an employment network for each month, up to a total of 60 months, during which Social Security disability benefits and Federal SSI cash benefits are not payable to a beneficiary because of the performance of substantial gainful activity (SGA) or by reason of earnings from work.

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P

PASS Cadre	Groups of PASS experts located across the country, with at least 1 cadre in each of the 10 SSA regions.
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Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) (SSI)	Under an approved PASS, you may set aside income and/or resources over a reasonable time which will enable you to reach a work goal to become financially self-supporting. You then can use the income and resources that you set aside to obtain occupational training or education, purchase occupational equipment, establish a business, etc. We do not count the income and resources that you set aside under a PASS when we decide SSI eligibility and payment amount.
Program manager (PM)	An organization in the private or public sector that has entered into a contract to assist SSA in administering the Ticket to Work program.
Property Essential To Self-Support (SSI)	We do not count some or all of certain property necessary for self-support when we apply the SSI resources test.
Protection and Advocacy to Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Program	<p>A grant program for state protection and advocacy (P&A) systems established under part C of Title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. PABSS program grants to the P&As are for two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services; and ● Advocacy or other services that a disabled beneficiary needs to secure or regain gainful employment.
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R

Resources (SSI)	Resources are anything you own, such as a bank account, stocks, business assets, real property, or personal property that you can use for your support and maintenance. We may not count all your resources when we determine your SSI eligibility.
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S

SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance authorized under Title II of the Social Security Act.
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SSI	Supplemental Security Income program authorized under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.
SSI General Income Exclusion	To determine SSI eligibility and payment amount, SSA excludes the first \$20 per month of your income.
SSI Work Incentives/Employment Support	Rules that help beneficiaries with disabilities go to work by continuing SSI payments and/or Medicaid.
State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency	The organization in each State, the District of Columbia or U.S. Territory, that is the designated governmental entity responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities residing within its jurisdiction. In some States a separate State Vocational Rehabilitation agency also exists to provide assistance and services to individuals with a visual impairment.
Subsidies and Special Conditions (SSDI and SSI)	Supports you receive on the job that could result in more pay than the actual value of the services you perform. We deduct the value of subsidies and special conditions from your earnings when we determine SGA.

Clarification

Substantial Gainful Activity (SSDI and SSI)	We evaluate the work activity of persons claiming or receiving disability benefits under SSDI, and/or claiming benefits because of a disability (other than blindness) under SSI. Under both programs, we use earnings guidelines to evaluate your work activity to decide whether the work activity is substantial gainful activity and whether we may consider you disabled under the law. While this is only one of the tests used to decide if you are disabled, it is a critical threshold in disability evaluation.
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For SGA amounts, visit [SGA Page](#).)

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T

Ticket to Work program	The Ticket to Work program provides disabled beneficiaries with expanded options for access to employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support services.
Timely Progress	The guidelines SSA uses to determine if a beneficiary is making

progress toward self-supporting employment.

Trial Work Period (SSDI) The trial work period is an incentive for the personal rehabilitation efforts of SSDI beneficiaries who work. The trial work period lets you test your ability to work or run a business for at least 9 months and receive full SSDI benefits **no matter how high your earnings are** if your impairment does not improve.

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U

Unincurred Business Expenses Self-employment business support given to you by someone else without cost. If you are self-employed, we deduct unincurred business expenses from earnings when we determine SGA.

Using a ticket The beneficiary has assigned a ticket to an employment network or State vocational rehabilitation agency and is making timely progress toward self-supporting employment.

Unsuccessful Work Attempt An effort to do substantial work (in employment or self-employment) which you stopped or reduced to below SGA level after a short time (6 months or less). This change must have resulted because of your impairment, or removal of special conditions related to your impairment that are essential to the further performance of your work. We do not count earnings during an unsuccessful work attempt when we make an SGA decision.

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V

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Those services identified in Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which are provided in an individualized plan for employment necessary to assist an individual with a disability in preparing for, securing, retaining, or regaining an employment outcome that is consistent with the strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice of the individual.

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W

Work Incentives/Employment Support	SSA policies that help disability beneficiaries go to work and receive benefits in an attempt to become more independent.
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Work Incentives

This section of the The Work Site contains definitions of the work incentives for SSDI and SSI beneficiaries.

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Explanation of SSDI

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) provides benefits to disabled or blind individuals who are "insured" by workers' contributions to the Social Security trust fund. These contributions are the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) social security tax paid on their earnings or those of their spouses or parents.

Explanation of SSI

The Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI) makes cash assistance payments to aged, blind and disabled people (including children under age 18) who have limited income and resources. The Federal government funds SSI from general tax revenues.

What is a Work Incentive

Special rules make it possible for people with disabilities receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to work and still receive monthly payments and Medicare or Medicaid. Social Security calls these rules "work incentives." Below are the rules that apply under each program. >

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SSDI & SSI-- We deduct the cost of certain impairment-related expenses that you need in order to work from your earnings when we decide if you are performing substantial work. Examples of impairment-related expenses are things such as a wheelchairs, certain transportation costs and specialized work-related equipment.

SSI-- We also exclude IRWE from your earned income when we figure your monthly SSI payment amount.

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Subsidies and Special Conditions

SSI & SSDI-- "Subsidies" and "Special Conditions" refer to support you receive on the job that could result in your receiving more pay than the actual value of the services you performed. We deduct the value of subsidies and special conditions from your earnings when we decide whether you are working at the SGA level.

Following are examples of subsidies and special conditions:

- You receive more supervision than other workers doing the same or a similar job for the same pay.
- You have fewer or simpler tasks to complete than other workers who are doing the same job for the same pay.
- You have a job coach or mentor who helps you perform some of your work. [Clarification](#)

SSI-- We do not deduct subsidies or special conditions when we figure your SSI payment amount.

Unincurred Business Expense

SSI & SSDI-- "Unincurred business expenses" refers to self-employment business support that someone provides to you at no cost. In deciding whether you are working at the SGA level, we deduct unincurred business expenses from your net earnings from self-employment. Examples of unincurred business expenses are (1) a Vocational rehabilitation agency gives you a computer that is used in a graphic arts business; and (2) a friend works for your business as unpaid help.

For an item or service to qualify as an unincurred business expense:

- It must be an item or service that the IRS would allow as a legitimate business expense if you had paid for it; and
- someone other than you must have paid for it.

One way to identify an unincurred business expense is that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does not allow you to deduct the cost for income tax purposes because someone gave you the item or services.

SSI-- We do not deduct unincurred business expenses from earnings when we figure your SSI payment amount.

Unsuccessful Work Attempt

SSDI & SSI-- An unsuccessful work attempt is an effort by a disabled individual to do substantial work that either stopped or produced earnings below the Substantial Gainful Activity level after 6 months or less because of:

- The individual's disabling condition, or
- elimination of the special services or assistance that the individual needed in order to work.

SSI-- Unsuccessful work attempts are not factors when we calculate your SSI payment amount.

Continued Payment Under a Vocational Rehabilitation Program

SSDI & SSI-- If you medically recover and no longer meet SSA's definition of disability, your monthly payments can continue if you are actively participating in an approved VR program that is expected to help you become self-supporting. Your monthly SSDI and/or SSI Payments can continue until you complete the program.

Trial Work Period

SSDI-- The trial work period allows you to test your ability to work for at least 9 months. During your trial work period, you will receive your full disability benefit regardless of how much you earn as long as you continue to be disabled. The 9 months does not need to be consecutive and your trial work period will last until you accumulate 9 months within a rolling 60-month period. Certain other rules apply.

Extended Period of Eligibility

SSDI-- If your disability benefits stop after successfully completing the trial work period because you worked at the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level, we can automatically reinstate your benefits without a new application for any months in which your earnings drop below the SGA level. This reinstatement period lasts for 36 consecutive months following the end of the trial work period. You must continue to have a disabling impairment in addition to having earnings below the SGA level for that month.

Continuation of Medicare Coverage

Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work

Earned Income Exclusion

Student Earned Income Exclusion

Blind Work Expenses

SSI-- Earned income that a blind individual uses to meet the expenses of working does not count when we determine SSI eligibility and payment amount. The expenses do not need to be related to blindness and include earned income used to pay income taxes, meals consumed during work hours, transportation costs or guide dog expenses.

Plan for Achieving Self-Support

SSI-- A plan for achieving self-support allows you to use your income and/or things you own to reach a work goal. For example, you can set aside money to go back to school, or to get specialized training for a job or to start a business. Your goal should be a job that allows you to earn enough to reduce or eliminate your need for benefits provided under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. We don't count the money or resources you set aside under an approved PASS when we decide your initial or continuing eligibility for SSI. Having a PASS may help you qualify for SSI or may increase the amount of your SSI payment.

Property Essential to Self-Support

SSI-- We do not count some resources that you need to be self-supporting when we decide if you are eligible for SSI. For example, we don't count property such as tools or equipment that you use for work. Or, if you have a trade or business, we don't count property such as inventory.

Special SSI Payments for People Who Work

SSI-- You can receive SSI cash payments even when your earned income (gross wages and/or net earnings from self-employment) is at the SGA level. To qualify under this provision, you must have been eligible for an SSI payment in the month before you started working at the SGA level, still be disabled, and meet all other eligibility rules.

Continued Medicaid Eligibility Section 1619 (b)

SSI-- Your Medicaid coverage can continue even if your earnings along with your other income become too high for an SSI cash payment. In addition to the qualification requirements for Section 1619(a) below, you must need Medicaid in order to work and meet certain income restrictions.

Special Benefits for People Eligible Under Section 1619 (a) or (b) Who Enter a Medical Treatment Facility

SSI-- Section 1619(a) of the Supplemental Security law permits people to continue to receive an SSI payment while they work. Under Section 1619(b), you may continue to be eligible for Medicaid coverage. If a beneficiary is eligible under section 1619, they can receive a SSI cash benefit for up to 2 months while in a Medicaid facility or a public medical or psychiatric facility.

Reinstating Eligibility Without a New Application

SSI-- If you have not been eligible for an SSI benefit for 12 months or less, you do not have to file a new application to reinstate your SSI cash payments or Medicaid coverage.

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