

Pennsylvania Work Incentives Planning Assistance

Working While Receiving Social Security Benefits – Work Incentive Counseling

Most people don't know that when a person qualifies for disability related benefits from the Social Security Administration (Social Security) such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), it does not mean they cannot work. For transition aged youth, Social Security offers specific work incentives that might help them while in high school or college.

We wanted you to be aware of a program that may be helpful to you/your son or daughter called Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WIPA). With primary sponsorship by Social Security, there is no cost to the student or family. Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC) undergo national certification and must also meet federal security clearance to ensure that this service is provided by trained and trustworthy professionals. The goal of the WIPA program is to enable beneficiaries with disabilities to make informed choices about work, and to support working beneficiaries to make a successful transition to financial independence. Each WIPA project has CWICs who will:

- Provide in-depth counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits;
- Conduct outreach efforts to beneficiaries of SSI and SSDI (and their families) who are potentially eligible to participate in Federal or State work incentives programs; and
- Work in cooperation with Federal, State, and private agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve disabled SSI and SSDI beneficiaries.

Should you wish more information:

Western PA – AHEDD 866-902-4333 x62001

Central PA – Goodwill Keystone -888-960-9675

Eastern PA – Disability Rights Network of PA 800-692-7443 x309

Or contact Social Security - <http://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA.html>

Ticket to Work

Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary program offered by the Social Security Administration that can help people age 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits and are interested in returning to work or working for the first time. By participating, you or someone you know who is interested in working receives support throughout your journey to financial independence. You can participate in the Ticket to Work through the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and/or approved Employment Networks. For more information about the Ticket, call the Help Line at 1-866-968-7842.