

Benefit Planning and Job Search Assistance

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

Social Security Administration (SSA) has contracted with Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) programs across the country to provide accurate work incentive information to people who receive SSI, SSDI, or both. WIPA projects are community-based organizations not directly connected to SSA. WIPA services provide comprehensive, individualized benefits counseling to assist the beneficiary to make informed decisions on their road to economic self-sufficiency at no cost to the beneficiary.

Certified Work Incentive Coordinators help individuals with disabilities that are either working or considering work, as well as their family members and service providers. Some services include:

- Providing in-depth counseling about the effect of work on federal and state benefits
- Providing written Benefits Summary and Analysis (BSA) explaining the impact of employment on benefits
- Assisting in learning to manage and report changes to Social Security
- Providing work incentive information and referral to community resources

It is highly recommended to anyone receiving a disability-related benefit that is considering employment to contact a WIPA to completely understand how employment will impact their benefits and to learn about all the work incentives that may be available to them. Accurate, personalized benefit information is essential to making an educated decision regarding employment choices.

How to Find a Local WIPA

Free WIPA services are offered in every state. Contact information is available on the SSA Ticket to Work website (<https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/>). Basic information and referral information is also available by calling SSA's Ticket to Work Help Line at 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 (TTY). Experts are available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET to answer questions, get you enrolled and connect with free employment services.

Other Benefit Counseling Resources

Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Centers of Independence, Work Incentive or Benefit Information Network, and other organizations may also have trained benefit counseling services that are not part of a WIPA project. These community partners provide a wide-range of services to support beneficiaries in going to work. Some of these services may be at a cost while others could be available through providers as part of an individual's work plan.

Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE)

Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE) webinars are free, live online events for those interested in learning more about Ticket to Work, Work Incentives, and other disability employment related topics. Social Security hosts these webinars on the fourth Wednesday of each month. To participate, you can register online at <https://choosework.ssa.gov/webinar> or call 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967(TTY). Past webinars are also available online.

Ticket to Work

The Ticket to Work is federal employment program for people with disabilities who receive Social Security benefits and are interested in going to work. The program was designed to remove many of the barriers that previously influenced people's decisions about going to work because of concerns over losing health care coverage.

The goal of the Ticket Program is to increase opportunities and choices for Social Security disability beneficiaries to obtain employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other support services from public and private providers and organizations free of charge through Employment Networks (ENs).

All services provided by an EN are free. Participation in Ticket to Work is voluntary for both the beneficiary and EN.

EN services can include:

- Vocational rehabilitation
- Training
- Referrals
- Job coaching
- Job counseling
- Placement services

How to Find an EN

Contact information to find free Employment Network (EN) services is available on the SSA Ticket to Work website (<https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/>). Basic information and referral information is also available by calling SSA's Ticket to Work Help Line at 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 (TTY). Experts are available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET to answer questions, get you enrolled and connect with free employment services.

Disability Benefits 101

Disability Benefits 101 (DB101), created by the World Institute on Disability, is a comprehensive website offering state-focused tools and information about employment and career planning, health coverage options, and disability benefits. DB101 serves a wide range of users, including job seekers with a disability, service providers, and their communities.

DB101 state-specific information allows an individual to debunk the myths about employment and learn the information to make informed decisions about work, including impact on disability benefits. DB101 calculators allow users to create and explore scenarios to see how changes in employment, earnings, marital status, or other circumstances may affect their health coverage and benefits. DB101 has information and links to additional resources that support employment for people with disabilities including Vocational Rehabilitation, and WIPAs (benefit counselors).

DB101 information is specific to each state and therefore should only be utilized by those residing in the particular DB101 state. DB101 (<https://www.db101.org>) is currently offered in nine states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, and Ohio.