

WORK INCENTIVE PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE (WIPA) PROJECTS

Abilities, Inc. of Florida 2735 Whitney Road Clearwater, FL 33760 727-538-7370, ext. 365 www.abilitiesfoundation.com	Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Levy, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, and Sumter
Brevard Achievement Center 1845 Cogswell Street Rockledge, FL 32955 321-632-8610 www.bacbrevard.com	Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Putnam, Seminole, St. Lucie, and Volusia
Center for Independent Living— Central FL 720 N. Denning Dr. Winter Park, FL 32789 407-632-1070 http://www.cilorlando.org	Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Miami- Dade, and Monroe
Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Inc. 4527 Lenox Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32205 904-384-1361 www.goodwilljax.org	Alachua, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Holmes, Lafayette, Liberty, Marion, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Walton, and Washington
Opportunity Development, Inc. (ILRC) 2709 Art Museum Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32207 904-399-8484 www.theilrc.com	Baker, Clay, Duval, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Nassau, Wakulla, and St. Johns

Agency for Persons with Disabilities Regional Offices



Keeping Your
Disability Benefits
While Working

4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
 1-866-APD CARES (1-866-273-2273)
 (850) 488-4257
 apdcares.org





SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

To be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) work incentives, a person must be determined eligible by the Social Security Administration one month prior to using work incentives. Request a copy of an Adult Disability Starter Kit at www.SSA.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213 to begin the process.

WORK INCENTIVE PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE (WIPA)

There are five Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects across Florida. WIPA projects provide free assistance with benefits planning to workers with disabilities who also receive benefits from the Social Security Administration. Each project is staffed with a Certified Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC). A CWIC can provide information about working and managing benefits for individuals and their dependents. Medicare, Medicaid, and reporting income are just a few of the common topics. A listing of WIPA projects in Florida and which counties they serve is included.

SOCIAL SECURITY WORK INCENTIVES

Work incentives make it possible for people with disabilities receiving SSI and/or SSDI to work and still receive monthly benefits and Medicare or Medicaid. The work incentives may differ depending on the amount a person receives. If you are not sure which type of benefit you receive, a CWIC can help. Some important work incentives to know include:

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE) are costs individuals pay for items or services related to their disability that are necessary to work. Examples may include: assistive technology, job coaching (including follow-along Supported Employment services), attendant services, transportation, medications, and medical supplies. These costs can reduce the amount of earnings counted by the Social Security Administration against SSI or SSDI benefits, which enables people to earn and keep more income.

Expedited Reinstatement allows individuals to get SSI or SSDI checks, even if they are no longer working. SSI or SSDI checks may be available for up to six months while the Social Security Administration determines if payments should continue beyond six months.

Continued Medicaid Coverage—1619(b) can keep Medicaid benefits or a Medicaid waiver intact, even if a person no longer gets an SSI check because of earnings from work. Individuals must coordinate with the local Social Security Administration office to ensure this provision is activated.

Trial Work Period (TWP) allows individuals to test their ability to work without losing SSDI benefits.

Special Rules exist for workers with visual impairments to earn more money before their benefits are affected. For more information, request the Social Security pamphlet called ***If You Are Blind or Have Low Vision***.