



Disability Benefits & Work

If you have a disability and want to work, there are things you need to know!

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

If you have a disability and in order to preserve continued access to health care through Medicaid, it is **critical that you apply for an SSI disability determination through the Social Security Administration prior to starting to work**. Get a copy of an Adult Disability Starter Kit at www.SSA.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

Work Incentive and Planning Assistance

There are 5 Work Incentives Planning and Assistance projects across Florida that work with people with disabilities who receives benefits from the Social Security Administration to provide free assistance with job placement, benefits planning and career development. Each of these projects is staffed with a Certified Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC).

A CWIC can help you with information about benefits for you and your dependents. Medicare, Medicaid, reporting your income and anything else related to working and managing your benefits. On the back of this sheet is a listing of all projects in Florida with notation of which counties they serve. Call and make an appointment with a CWIC, if you need assistance.

Social Security Work Incentives

Work incentives make it possible for you to work if you get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Disability Income (SSDI) benefits. You may be SSDI, SSI or both. The work incentives may be different depending on which benefit you get. If you are not sure which payment you receive, a CWIC can help you find out. Some important work incentives you should know about are:

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs) are costs that you pay for items or services related to your disability that you need to work. Examples include assistive technology, job coaching, attendant services, transportation, medications and medical supplies. These costs can reduce the amount of earnings counted by Social Security against your SSDI or SSI benefits.

Expedited Reinstatement can let you get your SSDI or SSI check if you can no longer work. You may be able to get you SSDI or SSI check for up to 6 months while Social Security decides if you should get your check back beyond the 6 months.

Continued Medicaid Coverage—1619(b) lets you keep Medicaid even if you no longer get an SSI check because of your earnings from work.

Trial Work Period (TWP) allows you to test your ability to work without losing your Social Security Disability benefits.

Special rules for workers who are blind or have vision impairment let you earn more money before benefits are affected. Ask for the pamphlet *If You Are Blind or Have Low Vision* from Social Security.

**Florida Agencies
with
Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Projects**

Abilities , Inc. of Florida
727-538-7370 x 365

Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Levy, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter

Brevard Achievement Center
1-888-310-6525
<http://bacbrevard.com>

Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Putnam, Seminole, St. Lucie, and Volusia

Center for Independent Living in Central Florida
407-590-6336
<http://www.cilorlando.org>

Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Miami-Dade and Monroe

Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Inc.
1-877-346-3349
<http://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

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