

To be eligible for WIPA services, you have to be:

- ◇ at least age 14, but not yet full retirement age, and
- ◇ already receiving or approved to receive Social Security benefits based on disability (SSI or SSDI).

The highest priority for individualized WIPA services include beneficiaries who are :

- ◇ **currently working** (or self-employed) and have both a need for and interest in receiving individualized work incentives planning and assistance services; or
- ◇ **actively pursuing employment** (or self-employment) and who are interested in receiving work-related benefits counseling, or
- ◇ **Transition age youth** between the ages of 14 through 25 who are interested in receiving work related benefits counseling.

If you are eligible for WIPA services but you don't meet the criteria for receiving individualized benefits counseling, you will still get help. You will receive information and referral services typically delivered by phone with supplemental information provided by email or mail.



I get a disability benefit from Social Security and I'm thinking about going to work.

Where can I get information about how work will affect my benefits?

You can start learning about work and benefits by going to Social Security's website here: <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/home.html>. This website has lots of easy to understand information about work and benefits.

You can also call the Ticket-to-Work Help Line toll-free at **1-866-968-7842** (V) or **1-866-833-2967** (TTY). A Help Line Representative can give you general information about work and Social Security benefits and refer you to your local WIPA project for benefits counseling services.

Ticket to Work Help Line:

Phone (866) 968-7842
TTY (866) 833-2967

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)



**Disability Resource Agency for
Independent Living (DRAIL)**

*Dedicated to increasing the
independence of individuals with
disabilities through resources,
advocacy and services.*

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Program



Congress created the WIPA program to promote employment and financial independence among Social Security disability beneficiaries – people just like you! The goals of the service are to:

- ◇ Increase the number of Social Security disability beneficiaries who engage in paid employment or self-employment;
- ◇ Support beneficiaries in successfully maintaining employment (or self-employment) over time;
- ◇ Provide accurate and timely work incentives planning and assistance services that enable beneficiaries to increase their earnings capacity overtime and maximize the financial benefit of working;
- ◇ Reduce beneficiary dependence on Social Security disability benefits and other income support programs; and
- ◇ Increase the financial independence and stability of beneficiaries through self-sustaining employment, asset development, and improved management of fiscal resources.

What can WIPA services do for me?

By signing up for free and confidential WIPA services, a CWIC can help you:

- ◇ **Verify all benefits information related to you** (and your family members as applicable)
- ◇ **Identify employment services or supports you may need** and provide direct referrals for such services.
- ◇ **Understand problems related to your benefits** and identify strategies for resolving or minimizing these problems.
- ◇ **Understand the potential effect of your earnings goal** on all benefits you receive by providing individualized counseling on the use of applicable work incentives.
- ◇ **Learn how to report wage information** to Social Security and successfully manage your benefits over time.
- ◇ **Analyze healthcare coverage options** so that you can determine which options offer the best coverage at the most affordable price.

What is a WIPA project?

WIPA projects are organizations within your community authorized by Social Security to provide free counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries to help them make informed choices about work.

Your local WIPA project can provide you with the information you need to decide whether work is right for you and understand how work may affect your benefits. Once you begin working, your WIPA project can also provide information and support to help you make a successful transition to financial independence.

WIPA projects are staffed by Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) who provide in-depth counseling about working, earning more money, and how working may affect your benefits.

CWICs are required to complete a rigorous training and certification process in order to gain the knowledge and skill to provide you with high quality work incentives planning and assistance services.

This document is funded through a Social Security cooperative agreement. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security communication.

This brochure printed at U.S. taxpayer expense.