



What is Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)?

Social Security’s “Ticket to Work” and Other Work Incentives Can Help You Return to Work and Stay Employed.

The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program is a free and confidential service designed to help you understand work rules and regulations and to access work incentives available under the SSI and SSDI programs. A Certified Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) can meet with you to discuss how returning to work will impact your benefits as well as recommend work incentives that can maximize your income and health care options as you return to work and achieve greater financial independence. We can also help you identify and access appropriate Employment Networks and other employment support services that can help you return to work.

Disability Rights Pennsylvania’s WIPA program serves Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Northampton Counties. For more information and resources on DRP’s WIPA program, visit the Resources page on DRP’s website at www.disabilityrightspa.org/Resources/WIPA.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible to receive WIPA services you must be:

1. receiving benefits from Social Security based on a disability (SSDI or SSI),
2. at least 14 years old and not yet eligible to receive full retirement benefits (currently age 65), and
3. employed, seriously considering employment or working toward employment through school or training.

What can WIPA do for me?

A Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) will help you understand how work can affect your benefits and develop a plan that promotes employment and enhances self-sufficiency.

Social Security offers information about work incentives. You can find general references about the employment-related provisions of Social Security Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs for educators, advocates, rehabilitation professionals, and counselors who serve people with disabilities in “The Red Book - A Guide to Work Incentives.” The Red Book can be on Resources page on DRP’s website.

What do I have to Report to Social Security?

You are responsible for reporting your earnings to the Social Security Administration and any other agency from whom you receive benefits such as Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the County Assistance Office.

For information about what you have to report to Social Security, please read “What Things do I Have to Report to Social Security?” found on the Resources page on the DRP website.

When do I have to Report to Social Security?

It is important to report your earnings to Social Security at the end of every month. For more information about reporting your earnings, please review “How Do I Report Income if I Receive SSI” and “How Do I Report Income if I Receive SSDI” listed on the Resources page on the DRP website.

What is not Considered Income?

For information on what is not considered income, please visit our Resources page and view “What is Not Considered Income?”, “SSI Student Earned Income Exclusion for Students Under the Age of 22”, “What Income Does not Count for SSI?”, “Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)”, “Impairment-Related Work Expenses”, and “Special SSI Rule for Blind People who Work”.

How to Prepare for Benefits Counseling?

You should gather all documents from all government agencies, including Social Security, Housing, and the Department of Human Services. For more information about preparing for benefits counseling, please view “Get Your Benefits Planning Query (BPQY) from Social Security” found on the Resources page of the DRP website.