

# Disability Benefits & Work



If you have a disability and want to work, there are programs that can help.

## **Work Incentive and Planning Assistance**

The Louisiana Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Coalition (LaWIPA) can help you manage your disability benefits if you're already working or if you are ready to enter the workforce. LaWIPA will connect you with a Community 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. Call 1-888-942-8104 to get more information about this assistance.

CWICs are located throughout Louisiana and provide assistance in all areas of the state. They can provide information to help you make decisions about working and your benefits such as:

- The Ticket to Work Program
- Social Security benefits and work incentives
- Medicare, Medicaid and the Medicaid Purchase Plan
- Any other benefits you or your family get

## **Social Security Work Incentives**

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



Some **important** work incentives you should know 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 your SSDI or SSI check for up to six months while Social Security decides if you should get your check back beyond the six 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.

- **Extended Medicare Coverage** allows you to keep Medicare for at least 8½ years after you go to work.

- **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.

The work incentives listed are only some of the tools that can help if you want to work. To make sure you are successful in your work effort, get help from a Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC). For more information on work incentives, visit The Work Site at [www.ssa.gov/work](http://www.ssa.gov/work).

## Resources

### Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213

1-800-325-0778 TTY

[www.ssa.gov/](http://www.ssa.gov/)

### Medicare

[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

### Medicaid Purchase Plan

P.O. Box 91288

Baton Rouge, La 70821-9288

1-888-544-7996

[www.LaMPP.org](http://www.LaMPP.org)



The artwork was created by Wanda Christy for Red River Artists with Disabilities project.

Learn more at [www.disabledartists.org](http://www.disabledartists.org).

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