

FAQs

What is work incentives benefits counseling?

Work Incentives Benefits Counseling is a process that provides information needed for making informed decisions about work. It helps a person understand how earnings may affect disability payments, healthcare, and other publicly funded benefits. For people with a disability, work incentives and benefits information are essential parts of getting and keeping a job.

Why is benefits counseling needed?

Many people with a disability want to work, earn more or start a career. But one of the biggest obstacles is the fear that doing so will lead to a loss of needed medical benefits or even a loss in total income. Many incentives are available that make it possible to earn more while keeping needed benefits. Work incentives benefits counseling can help an individual make important life-changing decisions!

How does it work?

Work Incentive Benefit Specialists (WIBS) assist people with disabilities by helping them wade through the complexities to make informed choices about the impact of work on their benefits.

WIBS can provide a written and oral analysis of a person's services and benefits and how work will change their cash payments, medical coverage, and continued eligibility. Understanding the options and possibilities can help a person make an informed decision about going to work.

Who provide services?

Work Incentive Benefit Specialists (WIBS) assist people with disabilities by helping them wade through the complexities to make informed choices about the impact of work on their benefits.

Information on how to access services on page 2.

When should a person with a disability seek benefits counseling?

A person needs Work Incentives Benefits Counseling when...

- Considering working for the first time;
- Considering increasing earnings;
- Considering re-entering the workforce;
- Developing a career plan;
- Actively job seeking;
- Having problems with current benefits.

The Paths to Employment Resource Center (PERC) is a partnership that provides training and technical assistance to promote employment and full community participation for people with disabilities through cutting edge technologies, evidence based practice and research.

Frequently Asked Questions Work Incentives Benefits Counseling

Where can I access services?

Tap into your resources

If you are currently working with an agency to find work, talk to your community or vocational agency for more information about how to access benefits counseling services.

Wisconsin Resources

Find a Work Incentives Benefits Specialist

Work Incentive Benefit Specialists (WIBS) assist people with disabilities by helping them wade through the complexities to make informed choices about the impact of work on their benefits. WIBS can provide a written and oral analysis of a person's services and benefits and how work will change their cash payments, medical coverage, and continued eligibility.

More information at Employment Resources, Inc.

<http://www.eri-wi.org/benefitspecialists.htm>

National Resources (including Wisconsin)

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA)

The Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Program (WIPA) is a voluntary program for people with disabilities who receive either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and have work-related benefits questions. Individuals receive information regarding federal and state benefits at no cost.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) designed the WIPA project to provide knowledge and support to beneficiaries who want to work and are unsure of how employment will affect their Social Security Benefits.

More information at Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Project <http://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA.html>

Resources

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Project

<http://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA.html>

Employment Resources, Inc.

<http://www.eri-wi.org/benefitspecialists.htm>

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Related Materials

Training

Employment Strategies Series
Introduction to Work Incentives Benefits Counseling
www.percthinkwork.org