

Social Security Disability Beneficiary Community Resource Guide

Accommodation Resources

This section provides a list of organizations and websites that can help you and your client learn about what accommodations are available, and how to access those accommodations. Also in this section are resources for state agencies that can help their clients receive the accommodations that they need to live independent lives. This section also lists resources for transportation accommodations such as 'The RIDE'.

<p><u>Dress for Success</u></p> 	<p>Dress for Success promotes the economic independence of women by providing professional attire, and a network of support and career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.</p>
<p><u>Job Accommodation Network (JAN)</u></p> 	<p>JAN is a service provided by the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). JAN provides free and confidential one-on-one guidance available on the phone or online for employers and employees on reasonable accommodations in the workplace.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)</u></p> 	<p>MCB provides rehabilitation and social services for blind individuals, helping them to achieve independence and community integration.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Network of Information Providers for People with Disabilities</u></p> 	<p>A website by INDEXX that provides information for people with disabilities in Massachusetts. You can look up resources by provider, disability, or town.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission(MRC)</u></p> 	<p>MRC is the state agency primarily providing employment support services for people in Massachusetts with disabilities. If you're looking for help getting a job or deciding what you'd like to do for work, check out the site and contact one of MRC's local offices.</p>
<p><u>MassMATCH</u></p> 	<p>MassMATCH is the Commonwealth's initiative to Maximize Assistive Technology (AT) in consumer's hands. It is one of 56 state-level AT Act programs in the United States. The MassMATCH mission is to promote the use of assistive technology and assistive technology services to enhance the independence of people with disabilities, enabling equal participation in all of life's activities.</p>
<p><u>MassRIDES</u></p> 	<p>Under the Executive Office of Transportation, MassRIDES is a statewide travel options program providing free assistance to employers and employees.</p>
<p><u>The RIDE</u></p> 	<p>The RIDE is the MBTA's (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) paratransit system that provides door to door, shared ride transportation to eligible individuals who are unable to use fixed route transportation (trolleys, buses, subway) all or some of the time, due to a physical, cognitive or mental disability.</p>


Benefits Counseling Resources

This section provides you with resources that you can refer your clients to when they have questions about their federal, state and public benefits. These resources can be used to learn how working will affect their benefits, what options are out there for healthcare and how a client can find out more about the benefits they receive by using the Virtual Gateway Tool.

<p><u>Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling</u></p> 	<p>Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling assists people who receive federal and state benefits such as SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps and subsidized housing to understand how working and earning or increasing wages can impact eligibility for these benefits.</p>
<p><u>Health Care for All</u></p> 	<p>This is a Massachusetts nonprofit advocacy organization working to create a health care system that provides comprehensive, affordable, accessible, and culturally competent care to everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us.</p>
<p><u>MassHealth</u></p> 	<p>In Massachusetts, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are combined into one program called MassHealth. MassHealth members may be able to get doctor’s visits, prescription drugs, hospital stays, and many other important services at little or no cost.</p>
<p><u>Medicare</u></p> 	<p>Medicare is a federally funded health insurance program that provides healthcare benefits to individuals age 65 and older, younger people with certain disabilities, and people of any age who have permanent kidney failure or end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and require dialysis or a kidney transplant. To learn more about this four-part federal health insurance program visit the official website.</p>
<p><u>Project Impact</u></p> 	<p>Project IMPACT provides individualized benefits counseling to Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) clients, others who receive SSI or SSDI, family members, schools, employment provider agencies, and state agencies throughout Massachusetts.</p>
<p><u>SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs for Everyone)</u></p> 	<p>SHINE is a state health insurance assistance program that provides free health insurance information, counseling and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare and their caregivers. To schedule an appointment with a counselor call: 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636) and press 3 or contact your local Regional SHINE Program Office or senior center at: http://www.mass.gov/elders/docs/medicare-d/shine-by-town.pdf</p>
<p><u>SSA.Gov/RedBook</u></p> 	<p>The Red Book is a general reference tool designed by Social Security to provide a working knowledge around both disability programs, how work income impacts SSI and SSDI, and special work incentives. The Red Book is primarily for educators, advocates, rehabilitation professionals, and counselors who serve persons with disabilities. However, applicants and beneficiaries can also use it as a self-help guide.</p>
<p><u>Virtual Gateway</u></p> 	<p>The Virtual Gateway is an online portal allowing beneficiaries to easily access and/or verify information around their public benefits such as MassHealth and SNAP.</p>

Employment Opportunities Resources

This section provides resources that can help in your client's search for a job. Resources in this section include links to job boards that are specifically for people with disabilities. Also in this resource section you will find resources for websites which can help your client through the process of looking, applying and being hired for a job.



<p><u>Ability Jobs</u></p> 	<p>abilityJOBS enables people with disabilities to enhance their professional lives by providing a dedicated system for finding employment. By posting job opportunities, or searching resumes, employers can find qualified persons with disabilities as well as demonstrate their affirmative action and open door policies.</p>
<p><u>LandAJob.org</u></p> 	<p>LandAjob is a new division of the National Telecommuting Institute. LandAjob advertises that it has a large searchable website of job openings and that it will pay up to \$10,000 for the purchase of items/ services that the beneficiaries may need to remain in the workforce once they have found jobs.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)</u></p> 	<p>MCB provides rehabilitation and social services for blind individuals, helping them to achieve independence and community integration.</p>
<p><u>MA Comm. For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)</u></p> 	<p>MCDHH enables access to information, services, and education for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing so that they may live independently and productively as responsible citizens.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission(MRC)</u></p>	<p>MRC is the state agency primarily providing employment support services for people in Massachusetts with disabilities. If you're looking for help getting a job or deciding what you'd like to do for work, check out the site and contact one of MRC's local offices.</p>
<p><u>One-Stop Career Centers</u></p> 	<p>Massachusetts One-Stop Career Centers provide numerous employment and training services for job seekers, employers, and their workers. Their main mission is to connect job seekers with employers.</p>
<p><u>Ticket to Work</u></p> 	<p>Ticket to Work connects eligible individuals receiving SSI or SSDI with free employment services such as career counseling, job training, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement. This site includes a list of profiles of local employment services so you can choose the one that best meets your needs.</p>

Employment Support Resources

This section provides resources that you can use with your clients, or suggest to clients to help in their job search. Resources in this section include a job board for people with disabilities, a listing of the One-Stop Career Centers in Massachusetts, organizations that can help Veterans, as well as state agencies for people with specific disabilities. There is also information about Social Security's Ticket to Work Program and how it can help your clients. Information is also provided about MRC which is the state's vocational rehabilitation program.




<p><u>Independent Living Centers (ILCs)</u></p>	<p>ILCs are nonresidential community based agencies that provide services to empower, as well as maximize the leadership, independence and productivity of people with disabilities. The core services that ILCs provide include information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, and advocacy.</p>
<p><u>Jobs Without Limits</u></p>	<p>A job board for job seekers with disabilities to connect with employers in Massachusetts.</p>
<p><u>MA Clubhouse Coalition</u></p>	<p>Clubhouses serve over 15,000 people with mental health disabilities in Massachusetts. There are 35 clubhouses in the state; to find one near you, check out the site.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)</u></p> 	<p>MCB provides rehabilitation and social services for blind individuals, helping them to achieve independence and community integration.</p>
<p><u>MA Comm. For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)</u></p> 	<p>MCDHH enables access to information, services, and education for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing so that they may live independently and productively as responsible citizens.</p>
<p><u>MA Department of Developmental Services</u></p>	<p>DDS is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to participate and contribute to their communities as valued members. To learn more about this program visit the site.</p>
<p><u>MA Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)</u></p> 	<p>DVS provides detailed information on state and federal benefits for veterans and their dependents. To learn more about this program visit the site.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission(MRC)</u></p> 	<p>MRC is the state agency primarily providing employment support services for people in Massachusetts with disabilities. If you're looking for help getting a job or deciding what you'd like to do for work, check out the site and contact one of MRC's local offices.</p>
<p><u>One-Stop Career Centers</u></p> 	<p>Massachusetts One-Stop Career Centers provide numerous employment and training services for job seekers, employers, and their workers. Their main mission is to connect job seekers with employers.</p>

Employment Support Resources Continued

<p>ReachHireMA.org</p> 	<p>ReachHireMA.org is a website for young adults with disabilities in Massachusetts. It contains helpful tips, advice, tools and resources on a variety of topics including going to work, going to school, work and public benefits, and gaining financial independence.</p>
<p>Ticket to Work</p> 	<p>Ticket to Work connects eligible individuals receiving SSI or SSDI with free employment services such as career counseling, job training, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement. This site includes a list of profiles of local employment services so you can choose the one that best meets your needs.</p>






Financial Resources

This section lists resources that can help your clients with financial matters such as getting their taxes done for free, or even where to receive assistance with paying certain bills.

<p><u>Massachusetts Assistance Programs-Need Help Paying Bills</u></p>	<p>Find grants, financial aid and assistance in all cities and counties in Massachusetts, including Boston and Worcester.</p>
<p><u>Chambers of Commerce</u></p> 	<p>The Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce provides legislative advocacy, marketing, networking, educational and informational programs for businesses in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To learn more click on the first link and to find your local Chamber of Commerce please click on the second link.</p>
<p><u>NEBA</u></p> 	<p>NEBA combines innovation with proven experience to help individuals with disabilities or other barriers reach their employment and/or education goals. Our programs include supported employment, self-employment, job skills training, and post-secondary education. NEBA is committed to helping each individual served realize their full potential.</p>
<p><u>VITA</u></p> 	<p>An IRS program that provides free income tax preparation assistance to low-income, elderly, disabled and limited English speaking people.</p>

Legal Resources

This section provides many resources around legal services for people with disabilities. Whether your client needs help receiving services that they need, or are having trouble with state vocational rehabilitation services this is a fairly comprehensive guide of who can help them with legal services in Massachusetts.

<p><u>Disability Law Center</u></p> 	<p>The Disability Law Center (DLC) is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. DLC is a private, non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities. DLC receives federal, state and private funding but is not part of the state or federal government.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)</u></p> 	<p>The Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) is a statewide association of the 24 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) operating in Massachusetts. Through the combined skills and vision of its members, MASSCAP works to enhance the ability of each agency to better serve its clients.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Client Assistance Program</u></p>	<p>CAP provides advocacy and information services. It helps people get services from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and the Independent Living Centers in Massachusetts, all of which receive federal money under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act.</p>
<p><u>Massachusetts Legal Services</u></p> 	<p>Mass Legal Services offers resources and information about legal issues facing lower income Massachusetts residents to legal services advocates and social services professionals.</p>
<p><u>Mass Office on Disability</u></p> 	<p>The primary mission of MOD is to ensure the full and equal participation of all people with disabilities in all aspects of life by working to advance legal rights, maximum opportunities, supportive services, accommodations and accessibility in a manner that fosters dignity and self-determination. It is the state advocacy agency that serves people with disabilities of all ages.</p>
<p><u>Medicare Advocacy Project (MAP)</u></p>	<p>This project operates from legal aid offices across the Commonwealth, assisting elders and persons with disabilities in obtaining the Medicare and Medicare-related health insurance coverage to which they are entitled. MAP advocates represent Medicare beneficiaries with individual issues and in groups to address policy issues.</p>
<p><u>National Disability Institute's Real Economic Impact (REI)</u></p> 	<p>National Disability Institute's Real Economic Impact (REI) Network is an alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to a common mission the economic advancement of people with disabilities.</p>