

# Public Benefits & Employment Training Menu

**Work Without Limits** provides training for employment service providers to help address some of the biggest employment challenges that people with disabilities face.

Contact **Work Without Limits** today to bring any of these trainings to your organization!

## Overview of Social Security Work Incentives for Families and Persons Served (2 hours)

This training highlights the main barriers to employment for Social Security disability beneficiaries. Participants are educated on existing work incentives, reporting requirements, beneficiary rights and employment support programs that help them realize work is possible. A variety of community resources are shared so that individuals know where and how to obtain the appropriate supports to assist in making informed decisions about employment and benefits.

**This training is designed to address concerns of persons served and family members.**

## The Basics of Social Security Work Incentives for Providers (2 hours)

This training addresses common myths around work and Social Security disability benefits (SSI and SSDI), while providing an overview of work incentives that counter such myths. Participants will review the major differences between SSI and SSDI, how work earnings affect cash benefits, public health insurance (Medicaid and/or Medicare), and other public benefits, i.e. Food Stamps and Subsidized Housing, and best practices on reporting.

Participants receive training materials and a certificate of completion.

**This training is appropriate for case managers and other staff.**

**After attending this training, participants will be able to:**

- Debunk the myths that are associated with SSI, SSDI, and work
- Recognize the differences between SSI and SSDI including how earnings from work affect each one
- Identify work incentive programs and associate them with SSI, SSDI, or both
- Apply best practices to report earnings to public agencies

## Disability Benefits and Transition Age Youth (2 hours)

This training provides information related to the significant benefit changes that young adults with disabilities need to understand as they approach adulthood including the mandatory Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Age 18 redetermination process, how adult benefits differ from childhood-related benefits under both Social Security programs, SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and how changes to public health insurance can occur. There is a special emphasis on young adult-related programs and work incentives such as Section 301 (Continued Payment under a Vocational Rehabilitation Program or Similar Program), the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) for individuals 21 and younger on SSI, and how a PASS Plan can help young adults leverage financial resources to fund education that may give them a head start on their career goals.

**This training is appropriate for case managers and other staff that work closely with transition age youth.**

**After attending this training, participants will be able to:**

- Navigate through the redetermination process and changes to public health insurance
- Differentiate adult benefits from childhood benefits under both SSI and SSDI
- Utilize work incentives that support young adults with educational and employment goals

Participants receive a set of training materials and a certificate of completion.

## The Nuts and Bolts of SSI and SSDI, Public Health Insurance and Other Public Benefits (In-person: 11 hours, Virtual: 10.5 hours)

This comprehensive training provides detailed information on both Social Security disability benefit programs (Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)), work incentives and health insurance (Medicare and Medicaid) associated with each program, and other public benefits that are available. This training is typically provided in one of two ways.

1. In-Person: three segments over two consecutive days, one full day and one half day
2. Virtual: three segments over three consecutive half days

The first segment focuses on the SSI program and how its work incentives are available to certain subsets of the beneficiary population and demonstrates how each incentive can reduce, to some degree, the impact that work income normally has on SSI cash benefits. The SSI monthly calculation is reviewed and is the basis of one of the training's major group activities.

The second segment focuses on the SSDI program and demonstrates how use of its associated work incentives may delay case closure, prolong the continuation of cash benefits, preserve public health insurance, or help reinstate cash and healthcare benefits to former beneficiaries.

The last segment focuses on eligibility requirements and dispute resolution processes of health insurance available to recipients of SSI and SSDI including Medicare, MassHealth Standard, CommonHealth, and One Care, and the benefits of the Medicare-Buy in program for working beneficiaries. We also explore various other public benefits including Food Stamps, Subsidized Housing, Emergency Assistance to Elderly Disabled and Children (EAEDC), Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC).

**This training is appropriate for employment specialists and other staff that work closely with persons served to achieve employment goals.**

**After attending this training, participants will be able to:**

- Verify and differentiate the various disability benefits
- Inform clients of the rules to report work income
- Explain how earnings will impact cash, healthcare and other public benefits
- Describe how Social Security work incentives can help working beneficiaries
- Direct clients to resources to address employment and benefit needs

Participants receive a comprehensive set of training materials, including an SSI calculation spreadsheet that can be used to assist beneficiaries in planning and managing their return to work, and a certificate of completion.

## The Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS) Intensive (7 hours)

This training provides in-depth information and tools to assist Social Security beneficiaries to write, submit and maintain a PASS plan. PASS plans help qualified individuals pay for key expenses related to achieving vocational goals, including education, transportation and equipment. The ultimate goal of a PASS is to assist beneficiaries to reach self-sufficiency by becoming independent of benefits.

This training is designed to give participants the information required to complete the PASS plan application process through analysis of a successful PASS plan used as an example throughout the training and by learners applying acquired concepts for developing a framework of a PASS plan. This training provides a brief review of SSI and SSDI, but assumes participants have a working knowledge of Social Security disability benefits.

Participants receive a comprehensive set of training materials and a certificate of completion.

**This training is appropriate for employment specialists and other staff that work closely with persons served to achieve employment goals.**

**As a result of this training, participants will be able to:**

- Gain an understanding of what PASS is and what it's not
- Be able to assist clients to decide if PASS is right for them
- Gain an understanding of how a PASS can be used to support client's work goals
- Become familiar with the PASS application form
- Learn resources to help complete the PASS application

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