

WorkWithoutLimits

Nuts & Bolts of SSI, SSDI, Public Health Insurance and Other Public Benefits











Please introduce yourself

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Day 1 Learning Objectives





Start Day: 9:00 AM

- **Breaks:** Two 10-minute breaks
- End Day: 12:30 PM
- Day 1: Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Day 2: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Day 3: Medicare/Medicaid & other public benefits

ZOOM Housekeeping Items





Please actively participate, this is your time!

Zoom live transcription is enabled

- To view or stop viewing live transcription, click the [CC] button in your webinar toolbar
- Select "Hide" or "Show" live transcription

Please mute yourself & devices

- To mute/unmute, click on the microphone in the bottom left-hand corner
- Please silence all devices & email (yes, this dings)

This is a small group so, please ask questions

- You can use the chat box to ask a question
- You can also unmute yourself throughout
- When speaking, please state your name each time

Vote and contribute!

- We will be using polls in this training
- Please participate, your answers are valued & confidential

Did everyone do the Pre-Assessment?





THIS IS NOT A TEST

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Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling





Who we are:

- Certified Work Incentives Counselors (CWIC)
- Trained and certified by Social Security
- One-year initial certification process with annual recertification
- Public Trust (Tier 2) security clearance
- Over 35 years of combined experience

Mission & Services





Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling

Our mission is to increase awareness of:

- Work impact on public cash, healthcare, and other benefits
- SSA work incentives and related advantages

Our services include:

- Counseling and analysis for beneficiaries working or actively seeking work
- Jobs Board, private LinkedIn group, Training, Events

https://workwithoutlimits.org/providers/

Day 1 – Learning Objectives





SSI

- Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits:
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Impact of work on cash benefits
- Benefits of SSA work incentives for working beneficiaries
- Best practices of reporting and benefits counseling



Whiteboard Activity





Please get ready to write on the whiteboard:

- There is no right or wrong answer
- We want to hear from everyone, no pressure

How to annotate:

- At the top of your screen select View Options and drop down to Annotate
- Select **Text** and type in whiteboard **when instructed**
- You can change font & color by using the **Format** button

Text is anonymous so please share your thoughts

What Does Disability Mean to You?









The Disability Benefit Puzzle



SSA Definition of Disability





- Physical or emotional impairment(s)
- Expected to last at least a year and/or result in death, and



 The inability to perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)

Note: SGA is a monthly gross earnings threshold used to measure a beneficiary's ability to work

Don't Believe Myths!







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Myth: Hours vs. Earnings





Someone working

20 hours/week at minimum wage (\$15/hour) earns \$1,200/month in a 4-week month

Someone working

20 hours/week at \$20.00/hour earns \$1,600/month in a 4-week month

Based on earnings, not hours

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Get the Facts







There are ways to maintain SSI and SSDI benefits using Work Incentives that are built into the benefit programs.



Individuals can keep their MassHealth and Medicare while working.



Both Social Security programs provide ways to get the cash payment back again if it is stopped due to earnings.

 \bigcirc

Benefits counseling can help individuals achieve self-sufficiency with minimal risk.

SSI vs. SSDI



- Elderly, blind, disabled with low income and resources
- No work history required to qualify
- Monthly cash benefits received on the 1st
- Automatically eligible for MassHealth Standard

SSDI

forHealth

CONSULTING

WorkWithoutLimits

at UMass Chan Medical School

- Blind or disabled workers or disabled adult children
- Need sufficient work credits to qualify
- Monthly cash benefits NOT received on the 1st
- Medicare eligibility after 24 months

Benefits Planning Query (BPQY)





SSA report that provides information about a beneficiary's:

- Statutory blindness
- Entitlement date
- SSI/SSDI cash benefits
- Overpayments
- Next medical reviews

- Representative Payee
- Medicare & MassHealth
- Work incentives
- SSA reported earnings

Obtaining a BPQY





Individuals requesting on their own behalf:

- Call your local SSA office or (800) 772-1213
- In-person at local SSA office
- Request Form SSA-2459 (Benefits Planning Query)

For anyone else requesting on an individual's behalf:

• Will be subject to a fee at the discretion of the local office

Best Practice:

Benefits Counseling programs in MA can obtain BPQYs for free Requires a Consent for Release of Information form (SSA-3288)

Social Security Consent



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— PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

- 1. Fill out full name
- 2. Date of birth
- 3. Social Security Number
- 4. Fill out address/phone
- 5. Fill out Relationship/phone
- 6. Print out form
- Sign and Date (must physically sign, digital signatures not accepted)

Consent for Release of Information				Form Approved OMB No. 0960-0566
You must complete all required fields. We will required field. **Please complete these fields TO: Social Security Administration	I not honor your req in case we need to	uest unless all red contact you abou	quired fields are complet t the consent form).	ed. (*Signifies a
Jane Doe	01/02	2/2001	123-4	5-6789
*My Full Name	*My Date			ecurity Number
authorize the Social Security Administration	(MM/DE		wit me to:	
NAME OF PERSON OR ORGANIZATION:	to release informati		F PERSON OR ORGAN	ZATION
Work Without Limits Employment Net	twork	333 South S		
UMass Chan Medical School		Shrewsbury,		
'I want this information released because: We may charge a fee to release information			work. I authorize	this requestor
to receive information to provide			turn to work assis	tance.
I authorize release of the records				
auchorize release or the records	a for i year be	grinning with	the date i signed	CHIS LOIM.
Please release the following information s	selected from the I	ist below:		
Check at least one box. We will not disclo	se records unless	you include date	e ranges where applica	ble.
1. Verification of Social Security Number				
2. Current monthly Social Security benefit				
 Current monthly Supplemental Security 				
 My benefit or payment amounts from data 				
 My Medicare entitlement from date 				
 Medical records from my claims folder(s) 		to date		
If you want us to release a minor child's	s medical records, o	to not use this for	m. Instead, contact you	local Social
Security office. 7. Complete medical records from my clair	me folder(e)			
<u> </u>		- New york of the	andall on this and in the U.	(au and an a life
 Other record(s) from my file (We will not other records; e.g., consultative exams, doctor reports, determinations.) 	award/denial notice	es, benefit applica	tions, appeals, question	naires,
Beneficiary's cash benefits,				
and SSI work activity and ear	nings All emp	lovment suppo	rte data on SSA's	records
am the individual, to whom the requested in egal guardian of a legally incompetentadult. Il the information on this form and it is true a r willfully seeking or obtaining access to rec 5,000. I also understand that I must pay all a	I declare under pe and correct to the b cords about anothe	nalty of perjury (2 lest of my knowle r person under fa	28 CFR § 16.41(d)(2004) edge. I understand that a lise pretenses is punish	hat I have examined nyone who knowing! able by a fine of up to
'Signature: Jane Doe			*Date: 02/*	5/2024
Address: 123 Anywhere St. E	Boston MA 02	2108	**Daytime Phone:	617-111-123
Relationship (if not the subject of the reco	rd): Guardia	n	**Daytime Phone:	617-345-123
Vitnesses must sign this form ONLY if the abo who know the signee must sign below and pro ignature line above.	ove signature is by wide their full addre	mark (X). If signed sses. Please print	d by mark (X), two witnes t the signee's name next	ses to the signing to the mark (X) on the
I.Signature of witness		2.Signature of wit	tness	
Address(Number and street, City, State, and Zi	p Code)	Address(Number	and street, City, State, and	d Zip Code)

BPQY Page 1 Sample



Confidential Social Security Data				
NAME:	SSN:			
	Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)		
RECORD	See Below	See Below		
CASH				
Type of Benefit	Disabled Worker	Disabled Individual		
Current Status	Current Pay	Current Pay		
Statutory Blindness	No	No		
Date of Disability Onset	4/1/2013	06/06/01		
Date of Entitlement	09/2013	06/01		
ull Amount	\$383.80	\$387.00		
let Amount	\$383.00	\$387.00		
Others Paid On This Record	No	No		
otal Family Cash Benefit	\$383.80	Not Applicable		
verpayment Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Ionthly Amount Withheld	\$0.00	\$0.00		
EDICAL REVIEWS				
lext Medical Review	08/17	09/22/16		
fedical Re-exam Cycle	3+ years	3+ years		
EPRESENTATION				
epresentative Payee	No	No		
uthorized Representative	Ng	No		



BPQY Page 2 Sample





NAME:			SSN:	section of	an da
HEALTH INSURANCE		MEDICARE		MED	DICAID
Туре	PART A	PART B		Eligible for I	Medicaid (SSI)
Start	09/2015	09/2015		(1634 S	tates only)
	03/2013	05/2015			
Stop					
Buy-In	No	Yes			
SSI WORK EXCLUSION	S	,			
Blind Work Expenses					
Impairment Related Wor	k Expenses				
Student Earned Income					
Student Lamed Income	Exclusions				
PASS Exclusion					
SSDI WORK ACTIVITY					
Trial Work Months	Sta	art: 11/14 En	d: Not Ended	Used: 4 Mont	ths
Month of Cessation	N/	A			
Current SGA Level	\$1	180.00			
Last Work Review Action		/21/2015			
DEMONSTRATION PRO		RMATION			
None					
RS Recorded Earnings	(Yearly)	SSI Rec	orded Earnings	(Monthly)	
YEAR EARNINGS YEAR	EARNINGS	MONTHS		MONTHS	EARNINGS
1989 \$373.29 1990 1991 \$641.20 1992	\$1,113.64 \$2,416 52	01/15 - 12	/15 \$82.41 (V)		
1993 \$1,909.84 1994	\$0.00				
1995 \$0.00 1996	\$0.00				
1997 \$6,059.25 1998 1999 \$0.00 2000	\$4.590.75 \$54.25				
2001 \$0.00 2002	\$54.25				
2003 \$0.00 2004	\$0.00			,	
2005 \$0.00 2006	\$4,916.57				
2007 \$7,553.57 2008	\$0.00				
	52 668 00				
	\$2,668.00		Date Produced:	5/16/2019	Page 2 c

BPQY Page 3 Sample





NAM	5:				SSN:	
2011 2013 2015	\$5,249.00 \$6,287.00 \$6,282.66	2014	\$4,733.00 \$8,985 78			
DATE		Post	ed SSDI Mon Verified	thly Earnings		Years)
UNIE		lages	ventied	Self Employmen	Verified	Total Countable Earnings
11/1	/2013			- Chipioyinen	• • • • • • • • • •	\$0,00
12/1	/2013			1		\$0.00
1/1	/2014	\$0.00	Ŷ	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
2/1	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
3/1	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
4/1	/2014 ;	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Ý	\$578.92
	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
	/2014	\$0.00	Ý	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
and the second second	/2014	\$0.00	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$578.92
		1,076.13	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$1,655.05
		2,251.67	Y	\$578.92	Y	\$2,830.59
		1,963.99	Y	\$600.00	Y	\$2,563.99
	an a sa in the 🍦 👘 👘	and the second second	1 V	\$600.00	Y	\$1,904.55
		1,304.55		\$600.00	Y	\$600.00
	2015			\$600.00	Y	\$600.00
	2015			\$600.00	Y	\$600.00
	2015					\$0.00
6/1/	2015		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	···· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	\$348.00
7/1/	2015	\$348.00	adam a sec <mark>hara</mark> da a			\$217.50
8/1/	2015	\$217.50			1	\$0.00
9/1/	2015			i in the second		\$0.00
10/1/	2015					\$0.00
	2015			1		\$0.00
	2015			2 		

Questions or Facilitator Input?







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SSI



SSI Program





• SSA pays monthly SSI cash benefits to qualifying:

- Children with disabilities (under 18)
- Adults with disabilities
- Adults who are statutorily blind
- Aged individuals (65 or older)

• SSI is a low-income program:

- Must meet income and resource limits
- Asset limit: \$2,000 individual; \$3,000 couple
- If under 18, parental income and resources count
- Resource limit: 1 car and 1 home

• Automatic eligibility for Medicaid (MassHealth Standard)

SSI Monthly Payments





- SSI payments are received on the 1st of the month
- SSI beneficiaries usually receive two payments:
 - Federal Benefit Rate (FBR): paid by SSA
 - State Supplement Payment (SSP): paid by MA

• Payment amounts are based on:

- Living situation
- Marital status
- Statutory blindness
- Un/earned income

2024 SSI Maximum Monthly Payment Levels (Single Individual)





Full Cost of Living	Only one who pays all household expenses Total SSI Payment: \$1,057.39 (\$943 FBR + \$114.39 SSP-MA)
Shared Living	Roommate(s) pay household expenses equally Total SSI Payment: \$973.40 (\$943 FBR + \$30.40 SSP-MA)
Household of Another	Lives in someone else's home and doesn't pay Total SSI Payment: \$716.25 (\$628.67 FBR + \$87.58 SSP-MA)

2024 SSI Maximum Monthly Payment Levels (Single Statutorily Blind Individual)





Full Cost of Living Shared Living Image: Shared Living<

2024 SSI Maximum Monthly Payment Levels (Eligible Couples)





Eligible Couple	Married couple, both receiving SSI		
Full Cost of LivingShared LivingImage: stateImage: stateImag	Total Monthly Payment Per Spouse: \$797.53 (\$707.50 FBR + \$90.03 SSP-MA)		
Household of Another	Total Monthly Payment Per Spouse: \$568.76 (\$471.67 FBR + \$97.09 SSP)		

SSI Questions or Facilitator Input?











Break Time







SSI & Work



SSI & Countable Income





- All income (earned and unearned) will affect a beneficiary's SSI monthly cash benefit
- Income counts in the month it is paid
- Earned income includes work, sick, personal, holiday, vacation, and bonus pay
- Unearned income may include cash gifts, lottery winnings, and other cash benefits



SSI Payment Calculation: Unearned Income

- Start with Gross Monthly Unearned Income
- Then subtract:
 - \$20 Unearned Income Exclusion
- Then \$1 for every \$1 received to get
 Total Countable Income

to determine New SSI payment



Subtract Total Countable Income from SSI Maximum Payment Level

Important: SSI is adjusted in relation to income – SSI is

calculated on a monthly basis





SSI Payment Calculation: Earned Income





- Start with Gross Monthly Earnings
- Then subtract:
 - \$20 Unearned Income Exclusion
 - \$65 Earned Income Exclusion
- Then divide difference by 2 to get Total Countable Income



 Subtract Total Countable Income from SSI Maximum Payment Level to determine New SSI payment

Important: SSI is adjusted in relation to earnings – as income increases, SSI decreases

SSI & Work Calculation Example (Single Individual)





Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 1,699.89
New SSI Payment	+ 499.89
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00
New SSI Payment	\$ 499.89
Total Countable Income	(557.50)
SSI Maximum Payment Level	\$ 1,057.39
Total Countable Income	\$ 557.50
Divided by 2	/2
Difference	\$ 1,115.00
\$20 & \$65 Income Exclusions	(85.00)
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00

\$1,200 is based on 20 hours/week at \$15/hr. (minimum wage) in a 4-week month

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SSI Bottom Line



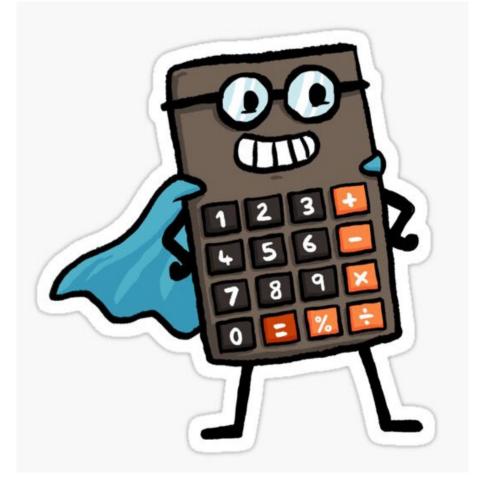




SSI Calculation Tool







Open Your SSI Calculation Tool





There are 6 Tabs included in your SSI Calculation Tool for different situations and work incentives:

- 1. Unearned Income
- 2. Earned Income
- 3. Earned Income with SEIE
- 4. Earned Income with IRWE
- 5. Earned Income with BWE
- 6. Unearned & Earned Income

Day 1 – Activity 1: SSI & Work Calculation





Scenario:

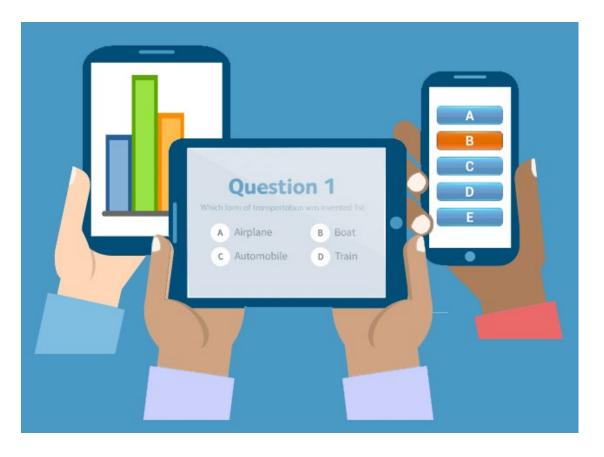
- Mary is single, lives alone, and collects SSI
- She gets a part-time job working 20 hours per week making minimum wage
- In a four-week month, how will her SSI cash benefits be affected?

Use the SSI Calculation Tool



Day 1 – Activity 1: Polling Time!





Day 1 – Activity 1: Answer





Weekly Hours Worked:			20
Paid Hourly Wage:		\$	15.00
		4 Wee	ek Month
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
General & Earned Income Exclusions			85.00
Difference		\$	1,115.00
Divided by 2	_		/2
Total Countable Income		\$	557.50
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$	1,057.39
Total Countable Income			557.50
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$	499.89
*After 2020, insert current year's FBR & SSP combined figures for Massachusetts			
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+		499.89
Total Gross Monthly Available Income*		\$	1,699.89

*Income taxes not deducted from figures above

SSI & Work Questions or Facilitator Input







SSI Work Incentives





Allow employed SSI beneficiaries to:

- Keep more of their monthly cash benefit
- Protect their MassHealth Standard

SSI Work incentives :

- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Blind Work Expense (BWE)
- Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)

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Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)





For students under age 22, Social Security will exclude:

- Up to \$2,290 of monthly work income and
- Up to an annual maximum of \$9,230 of work income

Must provide school documentation

Attendance Requirement:

- Grades 7-12 or technical school for at least 12 hours/week
- College or university for at least 8 hours/week
- Vocational Training and Job Corps
- Exceptions are made, if due to disability (i.e., homeschooling)
- Can be used during summer if going to school in the fall

SSI & SEIE Example





Scenario:

- Jim, a 16-year-old full-time high school student, lives at home and collects SSI
- He starts a part-time job working 20 hours per week at minimum wage
- In a four week pay period month, how will his SSI payment be affected?

SSI & SEIE Example (continued)





Weekly Hours Worked:			20
Paid Hourly Wage:		\$	15.00
		4 Wee	ek Month
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
SEIE (2022 Maximum \$2,040)		\$	1,200.00
Countable Income		\$	-
General & Earned Income Exclusions			85.00
Difference		\$	(85.00)
Divided by 2			/2
Total Countable Income			0
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$	973.40
Total Countable Income			
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$	-
Cross Monthly Forned Income		¢	1 200 00
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+	\$	973.40

Total G	ross M	onthly Available	e Income*	

*Income taxes not deducted from figures above

Note: \$1,200 has been used towards the annual SEIE maximum of \$9,230 (\$8,030 remaining)

\$

2,173.40

SSI & SEIE Comparison Example





SSI & SEIE Comparison Example		NO SEIE
Hourly Rate	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Weekly Hours	X 20	X 20
Weekly Salary	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Weeks Per Month	X 4	X 4
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Student Earned Income Exclusion	(1,200.00)	(00.00)
Total Countable Income	\$ 00.00	\$ 557.50
SSI Maximum Payment Level	\$ 973.40	\$ 973.40
Total Countable Income	(00.00)	(557.50)
New SSI Payment	\$ 973.40	\$415.90
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
New SSI Payment	+ 973.40	+ 415.90
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 2,173.40	\$ 1,615.90

Note: \$1,200 has been used towards the annual SEIE maximum of \$9,230 (\$8,030 remaining)

Day 1 – Activity 2: SSI & SEIE Calculation





Scenario:

- Sofia, a 21-year-old full-time college student, lives on campus and collects SSI
- She starts working a part-time paid internship at 25 hours a week earning minimum wage
- In a four week pay period month, how will her SSI payment be affected?

Have SSI Calculation Tool ready



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Day 1 – Activity 2: Polling Time!



Day 1 – Activity 2: SSI & SEIE Calculation





Weekly Hours Worked:		25
Paid Hourly Wage:	\$	15.00
	4 Wee	k Month
Gross Monthly Earned Income	\$	1,500.00
SEIE (2022 Maximum \$2,040)	\$	1,500.00
Countable Income	\$	-
General & Earned Income Exclusions -		
Difference	\$	-
Divided by 2		/2
Total Countable Income		0
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*	\$	973.40
Total Countable Income -		
Adjusted SSI Payment	\$	-

Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$ 1,500.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+	 973.40
Total Gross Monthly Available Income*		\$ 2,473.40
*Income taxes not deducted from figures above		

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Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)





Expenses related to disability, needed for work, paid out of pocket, and not reimbursed

Benefit of IRWE:

• You get half of what you spend back!

Common IRWE Examples:

- Specialized transportation
- Service animal expenses

- Medical co-pays
- · Specialized equipment

Note: Must provide receipts to SSA

SSI & IRWE Example





Scenario:

- Pamela lives with a roommate and receives SSI
- She recently began working part-time at 20 hours/week, earning minimum wage
- She has prescription co-pays and transportation costs of \$100.00 a month
- In a four week pay period month, how will her SSI payment be affected?

SSI & IRWE Calculation Example



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Weekly Hours Worked:			20
Paid Hourly Wage:		\$	15.00
, ,			
		4 Wee	k Month
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
General & Earned Income Exclusions			85.00
Difference		\$	1,115.00
IRWE:	_	\$	100.00
Difference		\$	1,015.00
Divided by 2			/2
Total Countable Income		\$	507.50
	=		
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$	973.40
Total Countable Income			507.50
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$	465.90
Gross Monthly Earned Income	+		1,200.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+		465.90
Total Gross Monthly Available Income*		\$	1,665.90
*Income taxes not deducted from figures above		Ψ	1,005.90



IRWE Comparison Example





IRWE Comparison Example	IRWE	NO IRWE
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,140.00
\$20 & \$65 Income Exclusions	(85.00)	(85.00)
Difference	\$ 1,115.00	\$ 1,115.00
IRWE	(100.00)	(00.00)
Difference	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 1,115.00
Divided by 2	/2	/2
Total Countable Income	\$ 507.50	\$ 557.50
SSI Maximum Payment Level	\$ 973.40	\$ 973.40
Total Countable Income	(507.50)	(557.50)
New SSI Payment	\$ 465.90	\$ 415.90
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
New SSI Payment	+ 465.90	+ 415.90
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 1,665.90	\$ 1,615.90 <

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Day 1 – Activity 3: SSI & IRWE Calculation





Scenario:

- Mario lives with a roommate and receives SSI
- He works part-time at 25 hours/week, earning \$15/hour
- He must purchase special boots needed for his disability, which cost \$100
- In a four week pay period month, how will his SSI payment be affected?

Let's try Day 1 - Activity 3 Together!

Day 1 – Activity 3: Group Discussion







Day 1 – Activity 3: Calculation

Paid Hourly Wage:

forHealth[™] at UMass Chan Medical School

25
\$ 15.00



	4 We	ek Month
Gross Monthly Earned Income	\$	1,500.00
General & Earned Income Exclusions -		85.00
Difference	\$	1,415.00
IRWE:	- \$	100.00
Difference	\$	1,315.00
Divided by 2		/2
Total Countable Income	\$	657.50
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*	\$	973.40
Total Countable Income -		\$ 657.50
Adjusted SSI Payment	\$	315.90
Gross Monthly Earned Income +		1,500.00
Adjusted SSI Payment +		315.90
Total Gross Monthly Available Income*	\$	1,815.90
*Income taxes not deducted from figures above		

Day 1 – Activity 3: Comparison



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Day 1 - Activity 3 Comparison	IRWE	NO IRWE
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
\$20 & \$65 Income Exclusions	(85.00)	(85.00)
Difference	\$ 1,415.00	\$ 1,415.00
IRWE	(100.00)	(00.00)
Difference	\$ 1,315.00	\$ 1,415.00
Divided by 2	/2	/2
Total Countable Income	\$ 657.50	\$ 707.50
SSI Maximum Payment Level	\$ 973.40	\$ 973.40
Total Countable Income	(657.50)	(707.50)
New SSI Payment	\$ 315.90	\$ 265.90
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
New SSI Payment	+ 315.90	+ 265.90
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 1,815.90	\$ 1,765.90





Break Time



Blind Work Expense (BWE)





Any work-related expenses incurred by statutorily blind individuals that are paid out-of-pocket and are not reimbursed

Benefit of BWE:

You get ALL of what you spend back!

Common BWE Examples:

- Service animal expenses
- Federal and state taxes
- Union or association dues

- Visual and sensory aids
- Meals eaten at work
- Transportation

SSI & BWE Example





Scenario:

- Bob lives alone and receives SSI due to statutory blindness
- He works 10 hours/week at \$25/hour
- He has a Guide dog, costing \$500 a month to maintain
- How will his SSI payment be affected?

SSI & BWE Calculation Example





Weekly Hours Worked:			10
Paid Hourly Wage:		\$	25.00
		4 Week Month	
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,000.00
General & Earned Income Exclusions			85.00
Difference		\$	915.00
Divided by 2	-		/2
Difference			457.50
BWE			\$500
Total Countable Income			0
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$	1,092.74
Total Countable Income			
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$	1,092.74
*After 2020, insert current year's FBR & SSP combined figures for Massachusetts			
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,000.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+	\$	1,092.74
Total Gross Monthly Available Income*		\$	2,092.74
*Income taxes not deducted from figures above			

SSI & BWE Comparison



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SSI & BWE Comparison	BWE	NO BWE
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
\$20 & \$65 Income Exclusions	(85.00)	(85.00)
Difference	\$ 915.00	\$ 915.00
Divided by 2	/2	/2
Remainder	\$ 457.50	\$ 457.50
BWE	(500.00)	(00.00)
Total Countable Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 457.50
SSI Maximum Payment Level	\$1,092.74	\$1,092.74
Total Countable Income	(0.00)	(457.50)
New SSI Payment	\$1,092.74	\$ 635.24
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
New SSI Payment	+ 1,092.74	+ 635.24
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$2,092.74	\$1,635.24

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Day 1 – Activity 4: SSI & BWE Calculation





Scenario:

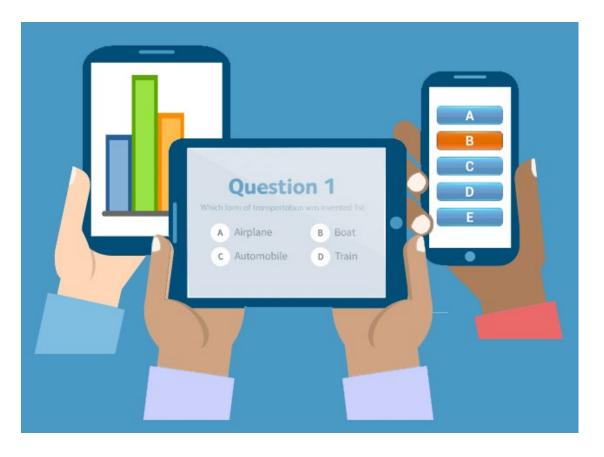
- Maria lives with a roommate
- She receives SSI due to statutory blindness
- She works part-time at 20 hours/week, earning \$15/hour
- She has a Guide dog, costing \$350 a month to maintain
- How will her SSI payment be affected?

Now try Activity 4



Day 1 – Activity 4: Polling Time!





Day 1 – Activity 4: Calculation





Weekly Hours Worked:			20
Paid Hourly Wage:		\$	15.00
		4 Week Month	
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
General & Earned Income Exclusions	-		85.00
Difference		\$	1,115.00
Divided by 2			/2
Difference			\$ 557.50
BWE			\$ 350.00
Total Countable Income			\$ 207.50
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$	1,092.74
Total Countable Income	- ,		\$207.50
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$	885.24
*After 2020, insert current year's FBR & SSP combined figures for Massachusetts			
Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+		885.24
Total Gross Monthly Available Income*		\$	2,085.24
*Income taxes not deducted from figures above			

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Day 1 – Activity 4: Comparison



WorkWithoutLimits™ — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Day 1 - Activity 4 Comparison	BWE	NO BWE
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
\$20 & \$65 Income Exclusions	(85.00)	(85.00)
Difference	\$ 1,115.00	\$ 1,115.00
Divided by 2	/2	/2
Remainder	\$ 557.50	\$ 557.50
BWE	(350.00)	(00.00)
Total Countable Income	\$ 207.50	\$ 557.50
SSI Maximum Payment Level	\$ 1,092.74	\$ 1,092.74
Total Countable Income	(207.50)	(557.50)
New SSI Payment	\$ 885.24	\$ 535.24
Total Monthly Gross Earned Income	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
New SSI Payment	+ 885.24	+ 535.24
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 2,085.24	\$ 1,735.24

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SSI Calculation Questions or Facilitator Input







Break Even Point





- When an individual's SSI payment reduces to \$0 due to work income
- Social Security calls this 'in suspense' and SSI case remains open
- Break Even Point = (Max. SSI x 2) + \$85
- 2024, the Break Even Point for an individual living alone:
 - Non-blind is \$2,199.78
 - Statutorily blind is \$2,270.48

Non-blind	Blind	
\$1,057.39	\$1,092.74	
+ \$1,057.39	+ \$1,092.74	
+ \$85.00	+ \$85.00	
= \$2,199.78	= \$2,270.48	

SSI Case Closure Scenarios





An individual's SSI case will close if:

- SSI benefits are in suspense for 12 consecutive months
- Income and/or assets exceed limits for over 30 days
 - Individual: \$2,000
 - Couple: \$3,000
- · Found to be medically improved

Note: There is a work incentive to get SSI back!



Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)





Restores Cash Benefits

Requirements:

- Case must have closed due to work
- Must apply within 5 years of case closure
- Must have same disability as before
- Earnings must be below SGA due to disability



Note:

- Up to 6 months of cash benefits while the EXR decision is made
- Available to both SSI and SSDI beneficiaries







Please share your screen with calculation tool

Tell us about the client and their employment situation:

- Hours working?
- Rate of hourly pay?
- Living situation?
- Are they using any work incentives?

...no pressure -- have fun!

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Concurrent Beneficiaries





Individuals who receive both SSI and SSDI

- Occurs when the SSDI monthly cash benefit amount is less than the SSI Maximum Payment Level
- SSI and SSDI combined cash benefits will never exceed SSI Maximum Payment Level, plus \$20

<u>Note</u>: Must follow all SSI and SSDI work rules and can take advantage of all available work incentives

Concurrent Beneficiaries/Non-Working Scenario





Scenario:

- Mark lives alone and receives SSI due to his disabling condition
- He also receives \$300 per month in SSDI
- He is not working
- How will his SSDI benefit payment affect his SSI cash benefit?

Concurrent Beneficiary Non-Working Calculation





Monthly Unearned Income (SSDI) General Income Exclusion	_	\$ 300.00 20.00
Total Countable Income		\$ 280.00
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$ 1,057.39 🔻
Total Countable Income	-	 280.00
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$ 777.39
Monthly Unearned Income		\$ 300.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+	 777.39
Total Monthly Available Income		\$ 1,077.39

Dual Beneficiaries/Working Scenario





Scenario:

- Mark lives alone and receives SSI due to his disabling condition
- He also receives \$300 month in SSDI
- He starts working part-time earning minimum wage at 20 hours/week
- How will his earnings affect his Social Security disability benefits?

Dual Beneficiary Working Calculation





Monthly Unearned Income (SSDI)	\$ 300.00
General Income Exclusion -	 20.00
Total Countable Unearned Income	\$ 280.00
Weekly Hours Worked:	20
Paid Hourly Wage:	15

4 Week Month

\$

1,709.89

Gross Monthly Earned Income		\$	1,200.00
Earned Income Exclusion	-		65.00
Difference		\$	1,135.00
Divided by 2		 	/2
Total Countable Earned Income		\$	567.50
Total Countable Unearned Income		\$	280.00
Total Countable Earned Income			567.50
Total Countable Income		\$	847.50
Current Year's SSI Maximum Payment Level*		\$	1,057.39-
Total Countable Income	-	 	847.50
Adjusted SSI Payment		\$	209.89
*After 2020, insert current year's FBR & SSP combined figures for Massachusetts			
Marthur Linearned Income		¢	200.00
Monthly Unearned Income		\$	300.00
Gross Monthly Earned Income			1,200.00
Adjusted SSI Payment	+		209.89

Total Gross Monthly Available Income*

SSI Closing Thoughts





Working SSI beneficiaries:

- Will have more available income then if they didn't work
- Can maximize SSI cash benefits by using work incentives
- Will see cash benefits fluctuate with changes in income



Questions on SSI?







Have a Great Day















Day 1 Questions?









WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Day 1 – Recap: Polling Time!



Day 2 – Learning Objectives





SSDI

- Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits:
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Impact of work on cash benefits
- Benefits of SSA work incentives for working beneficiaries
- Best practices of reporting and benefits counseling





SSDI



SSDI Program





- SSA pays monthly SSDI cash benefits to qualifying:
 - Adults with sufficient SSA work credits
 - Minor dependents of qualifying adults
 - Disabled adult children whose parent is retired, deceased or disabled, called a Childhood Disability Benefit (CDB)
 - Disabled widow/er of qualifying spouse
- No resource limits to qualify/remain eligible
- Eligible for Medicare after 24 months of entitlement

SSA Work Credit Criteria





- The SSDI payment is based on earnings from FICA taxes
- To qualify for SSDI, an individual needs sufficient work credits
- Individuals can accumulate up to 4 credits per year
- 40 credits are required, possibly fewer depending on age
- 20 credits must be earned in the last 10 years, ending with the year the disability began
- In 2024: 1 credit is \$1,730 of gross work income (4 = \$6,920)





SSDI & Work



SSDI & Countable Work Earnings





- Unearned income does not impact SSDI cash benefits
 - Worker's compensation is the only exception
- Work earnings can impact SSDI cash benefits
 - Paid time off and reimbursements don't count
- Individual will either receive full SSDI or no SSDI
 - Impact depends on earnings and use of work incentives
- Earnings are counted in the month worked
 - Failure to report will cause earnings to be counted when paid

SSDI Work Incentives





Programmatic SSDI Work Incentives:

- Trial Work Period (TWP)
- Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)

Criteria-Based SSDI Work Incentives:

- Impairment-Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Special Conditions
- Employer Subsidies
- Income Averaging
- Unsuccessful Work Attempt (UWA)



Trial Work Period (TWP)





- First incentive available to all working SSDI beneficiaries
- Unlimited earnings for 9 months
- Monthly gross earnings of \$1,110 or more equals 1 TWP month
- Won't end until 9 TWP months occur in a 5-year window

Note:

- TWP months don't have to be consecutive or from one job
- Cash benefits are safe during TWP no matter what!
- Individuals are only entitled to one TWP per claim

9 Consecutive TWP Months





Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	Not V	Not Working										
2021	Not V	Norking	g									
2022	Not V	Norking	g									
2023	Not V	Norking	g									
2024	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200	\$1200			
	1 TWP	2 TWP	3 TWP	4 TWP	5 TWP	6 TWP	7 TWP	8 TWP	9 TWP			

2024 TWP: \$1,110

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9 Scattered TWP Months





Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	\$950	\$950	\$950	\$500	\$500	\$500						
	1 TWP	2 TWP	3 TWP									
2021									\$950	\$950	\$950	\$950
									4 TWP	5 TWP	6 TWP	7 TWP
2022												
2023				\$1100								
				8 TWP								
2024	\$1200											
	9 TWP											
							·					

\$910 (2020) | \$940 (2021) | \$970 (2022) | \$1,050 (2023) | \$1,110 (2024)

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SSDI Questions or Facilitator Input







Day 2 – Activity 1: SSDI & TWP





Scenario:

- Juan receives \$1,500 a month in SSDI benefits
- On February 1, 2024, he begins working 20 hours a week at \$15 an hour, earning \$1,200 per month
- This is his first job since becoming entitled to SSDI
- In 2024, the TWP monthly threshold is \$1,110 per month
- If he consistently grosses the same every month, when will his TWP start and end?

Now try Day 2 – Activity 1

Day 2 – Activity 1: SSDI & TWP (continued)





What you will need:

• Day 2 – Activity 1 Worksheet



You have 5 minutes to complete

Day 2 – Activity 1: Answer



WorkWithoutLimits

- Juan receives \$1,500 a month in SSDI benefits
- He begins working February 1, 2024, earning \$1,200 per month
- When will his TWP begin and end?

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2024	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
TWP used	NO	1 TWP	2 TWP	3 TWP	4 TWP	5 TWP	6 TWP	7 TWP	8 TWP	9 TWP	NO	NO

2024 TWP: \$1,110

TWP 5 Year Look Back





- Some individuals start their TWP, but never finish
- For TWP to be completed, all 9 months must be used within 5 years
- Any months outside the 60-month period doesn't count as a TWP month
- Social Security will look back 5 years starting with the current month

Common Example:

- An individual works only one month (December) a year as a Salvation Army Bell Ringer and grosses \$1,110
- The TWP will start, but never ends, because in 5 years Social Security will only count 5 months used towards the TWP

TWP 5 Year Look Back Example





Year	Dec.	Feb. – Dec.
2020	\$950	Not Working
	2 TWP	
2021	\$1,000	Not Working
	3 TWP	
2022	\$1,000	Not Working
	4 TWP	
2023	\$1,100	Not Working
	5 TWP	
2024	\$1,150	Not Working
	5 TWP	

\$910 (2020) | \$940 (2021) | \$970 (2022) | \$1,050 (2023) | \$1,110 (2024)

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)

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101

- Monthly gross earnings threshold SSA uses to measure an individual's ability to work
- SGA is applied after completion of TWP
- 2024 SGA threshold:
 - \$1,550 disabled
 - \$2,590 statutorily blind
- If SGA is consistently earned, the SSDI payment will stop!







Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)





- Begins the month after TWP ends
- Continues for 36 consecutive months whether
 - working or not
 - receiving a payment or not
- Guarantees payment if gross earnings are below SGA
- SSDI case remains open during EPE!

SGA Rule After TWP:

- Any month SGA is achieved, payment stops
- One exception: The Grace Period





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Exception to SGA rule after TWP

First time SGA is achieved:

- Begins a consecutive 3-month Grace Period
- 1st month is called "Cessation"
- Can occur during or after EPE
- SSDI payment guaranteed during Grace Period



Group Discussion: SGA Rule After TWP

Scenario:

- Maria's TWP ended January 2023
- EPE began February 2023
- She begins earning SGA September 2023

Questions:

- When will her Grace Period begin and end?
- Will she get her SSDI payment during her Grace Period?
- What if she earns *under* SGA in month 2 of Grace Period?
- What if she earns over SGA after her Grace Period?





PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK

Polling Time! Group Discussion: SGA Rule After TWP



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Scenario:

- Maria's TWP ended January 2023
- EPE began February 2023
- She begins earning SGA Sept. 2023



Group Discussion Q&A





When will her Grace Period begin and end?Begins: September 2023Ends: November 2023

Will she get her SSDI payment during her Grace Period? YES, guaranteed payment during the Grace Period!

What if she earns *under* SGA in month 2 of Grace Period? It doesn't matter! Grace Period months are consecutive.

What if she earns *over* SGA after the Grace Period? Her SSDI payment will stop.



TWP Questions or Facilitator Input







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Break Time



SSDI Case Closure





Case closure can't occur until an individual's:

- EPE has ended
- Grace Period has been completed
- Gross monthly earnings are at or above SGA



Note: Case closure can occur anytime an individual is found to be medically improved.

Day 2 – Activity 2: Breakout Rooms Prep





Please have the following materials ready:

• Day 2 – Activity 2 Worksheet

Breakout rooms:

- Choose a spokesperson
- A facilitator will be there to record answers
- Please do not leave breakout before being prompted

You have 15 minutes, then the host will call you back ...no pressure & have fun!

Day 2 – Activity 2: SSDI, TWP, EPE & SGA Rule





Scenario:

- Jenn has been getting SSDI since 2014
- She begins working part-time on February 1, 2019
- She consistently grosses \$1,100 monthly to February 2021
- In 2019, TWP was \$880 and SGA was \$1,220

Questions:

- When will her TWP begin and end?
- Will she get her SSDI payment during TWP?
- When will her EPE begin and end?
- Will she get her SSDI payment during EPE?

Day 2 – Activity 2: Breakout Rooms







Day 2 – Activity 2: Answers





When will her TWP begin and end?
Begins: February 2019
Ends: October 2019

Will she get her SSDI payment during TWP? Yes, because cash benefits are protected throughout TWP

When will her EPE begin and end?
Begins: November 2019 Ends: October 2022

Will she get her SSDI payment during EPE? Yes, as long as she grosses below SGA for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022

Day 2 – Activity 2: Answers (continued)



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019		\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100
		TWP 1	TWP 2	TWP 3	TWP 4	TWP 5	TWP 6	TWP 7	TWP 8	TWP 9	EPE	EPE
2020	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100	\$1100
	EPE											
2021	\$1100	\$1100	N/A									
	EPE											
2022	N/A											
	EPE											
2023	N/A											

Information for previous years

Year	TWP	SGA
2019	880	1220
2020	910	1260
2021	940	1310
2022	970	1350
2023	1050	1470

Day 2 – Activity 3: Breakout Rooms Prep





Please have the following materials ready:

• Day 2 – Activity 3 Worksheet

Breakout rooms:

- Choose a spokesperson
- A facilitator will be there to record answers
- Please do not leave breakout before being prompted

You have 15 minutes, then the host will call you back ...no pressure & have fun!

Day 2 – Activity 3: Grace Period



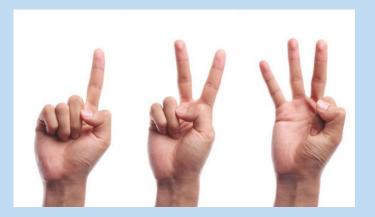


Scenario:

- Jenn begins working full-time on March 1, 2020
- She starts grossing \$2,500 a month
- In 2021 SGA was \$1,310

Questions:

- What months will be her Grace Period?
- What will happen to her cash benefits:
- During this Period?
- After this Period?
- If she quits in June 2021?
- After EPE if she never quits?



Day 2 – Activity 3: Breakout Rooms







Day 2 – Activity 2: Answers



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

What months will be her Grace Period?

- March 2021 through May 2021 is her Grace Period
- March 2021 would be considered her Cessation Month

What will happen to her cash benefits during this Period? She will receive her cash benefits for all 3 months

What will happen to her cash benefits after this Period? They will be suspended since the SGA rule will apply

What will happen to her cash benefits if she quits June 2021? She will be entitled to her cash benefits again

What will happen after her EPE if she never quits? Her case will close once she makes SGA after EPE



WorkWithoutLimits™ — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Day 2 – Activity 3: Answers

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019		\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960
		TWP 1	TWP 2	TWP 3	TWP 4	TWP 5	TWP 6	TWP 7	TWP 8	TWP 9	EPE	EPE
2020	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960
	EPE											
2021	\$960	\$960	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500
	EPE	EPE	Grace	Grace	Grace	EPE						
2022	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500
	EPE											
2023	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500

Information for previous years

Year	TWP	SGA
2019	880	1220
2020	910	1260
2021	940	1310
2022	970	1350
2023	1050	1470

TWP Chart Questions or Facilitator Input







Criteria Based SSDI Work Incentives





- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Special Conditions
- Employer Subsidies
- Income Averaging
- Unsuccessful Work Attempts (UWA)

Note:

- Available anytime after TWP
- Individual must meet eligibility criteria to utilize

Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)





Expenses related to disability, needed for work, paid out of pocket and not reimbursed

Benefit to SSDI:

- Full cost deducted from monthly gross earnings
- If gross earnings fall under SGA, then the beneficiary will be entitled to cash benefit

Common IRWE Examples :

- Specialized transportation
- Service animal expenses

- Medical copays
- Specialized equipment

Note: Must provide receipts to SSA

SSDI & IRWE Example



WorkWithoutLimits



- Karen receives \$1,300 in SSDI
- In January 2024, she begins earning \$1,600 a month
- She has \$200 in IRWEs for medication copays
- In 2024, SGA is \$1,550
- How will her IRWEs affect her SSDI benefits?

Results:

SSDI & IRWE Answer	
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,600.00
IRWE	(200.00)
New Countable Gross Earnings	\$ 1,400.00
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,600.00
SSDI Monthly Payment	+ 1,300.00
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$2,900.00

Special Conditions





- Type of subsidy where work-related items and/or services are paid by a third party
- Value is calculated by multiplying the individual's hourly rate and number of hours special condition is used
- Value is deducted from monthly gross earnings
 - If gross earnings fall under SGA, then beneficiary will be entitled to cash benefit

Examples:

- Transportation paid by DDS
- Job Coach paid by MRC
- Reader paid by MCB

Special Conditions Example/ SERVICE





Scenario:

- Max receives \$1,500 in SSDI. He completed TWP and is now in EPE.
- He's working 20 hours a week earning \$20 an hour, grossing \$1,600 monthly, which is \$50 above SGA (\$1,550 in 2024).
- He has a Job Coach paid by MRC for 16 hours a month.

Question:

• How will Special Conditions affect his SSDI benefits?

Special Conditions Answer/ SERVICE





Hourly Wages	\$	20.00
Monthly Hours Job Coach Used		x 16
Monthly Value of Special Conditions (Service)	\$	320.00
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ ^	1,600.00
Monthly Value of Special Conditions (Service)		(320.00)
New Countable Gross Earnings	\$,280.00
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ ^	1,600.00
SSDI Monthly Payment	+ 1	1,500.00
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 3	3,100.00

Special Conditions Example/ITEM





Scenario:

- Kyle receives \$1,300 in SSDI monthly. He completed TWP and is now in EPE.
- He's working 20 hours a week earning \$20.00 an hour, grossing \$1,600 monthly, which is \$50 above SGA (\$1,550 in 2024).
- Kyle needs an adjustable desk, due to his disability. MRC is paying \$1,000 for this item.

Question:

• How will Special Conditions affect his SSDI benefits?

Special Conditions Answer/ITEM





	<u>.</u>
Total Cost of Special Conditions (Item)	\$ 1,000.00
Divided by 12 Months	/12
Monthly Value of Special Conditions (Item)	\$ 83.33
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,600.00
Monthly Value of Special Conditions (Item)	(83.33)
New Countable Gross Earnings	\$ 1,516.67
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,600.00
SSDI Monthly Payment	+ 1,300.00
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 2,900.00

Employer Subsidy





- Reasonable accommodations that an employer provides
- · Not provided to other employees in similar positions
- Subsidy value is based on % of actual work productivity
- Value is deducted from monthly gross earnings
 - If countable earnings are less than SGA, then beneficiary will be entitled to cash benefit
- Requires employer documentation and regular SSA reviews

Examples:

- Extra supervision, assistance, and/or breaks
- Modified work routine or reduced tasks

Employer Subsidy Example





Scenario:

- Sandy receives \$1,200 in SSDI. She completed TWP and is in EPE.
- She's working 20 hours a week, earning \$20 an hour, grossing \$1,600 monthly, which is \$50 above SGA (\$1,550 in 2024).
- Her employer provides extra supervision, flexible hours, longer breaks.
- She's performing 90% of her job compared to others in similar positions; Social Security determines Sandy has a 10% subsidy.

Question:

• How will the Employer Subsidy affect her SSDI benefits?

Employer Subsidy Answer





Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,600.00
Employer Subsidy (%)	10%
	\$ 160.00
Monthly Value of Employer Subsidy	
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,600.00
Monthly Value of Employer Subsidy	(160.00)
New Countable Gross Earnings	\$ 1,440.00
Monthly Gross Earnings	\$ 1,500.00
SSDI Monthly Payment	+ 1,300.00
Total Available Gross Monthly Income	\$ 2,900.00

Income Averaging





- Determines average monthly countable earnings, when earnings fluctuate above and below SGA
- Social Security will average gross monthly earnings evenly over the months that the individual worked
- Used to continue receiving SSDI cash benefits

Note: Can't be used once the Grace Period has occurred





Break Time



Unsuccessful Work Attempt (UWA)





- Unable to consistently earn SGA for 6 months or less, as a result of disability
- Social Security will disregard work attempts
- UWA can be used multiple times within a claim

Note: Can't be used once the Grace Period has occurred

Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)





Restores Cash Benefits

Requirements:

- Case must have closed due to work
- Must apply within 5 years of case closure
- Must have same disability as before
- Earnings must be below SGA due to disability



Note:

- Up to 6 months of cash benefits while EXR decision is made
- Available to both SSI and SSDI beneficiaries

Case Scenario – SSDI





Tell us about the client and their employment situation:

- Hours working?
- Rate of hourly pay?
- Has TWP started?
- Are they eligible for any work incentives?

...no pressure -- have fun!

SSDI Closing Thoughts





Working SSDI beneficiaries:

- Are entitled to a TWP and an EPE
- Are subject to the SGA rule after TWP
- Who earn SGA after EPE will trigger case closure
- Can access other incentives during and after EPE to keep:
 - Cash benefits longer
 - Case open

Questions on SSDI?







Have a Nice Day















Day 2 Questions?







Post-Assessment Review



WorkWithoutLimits[™] — PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

Did everyone do their Assessment?



Assessment Answers







Assessment Answers (continued)





- 1. SSI and SSDI count income in exactly the same way. **False**
- 2. SSI is for individuals who have limited income and resources. True
- 3. In order to be eligible for SSDI benefits, no work history is necessary. False
- 4. SSI recipients automatically receive Medicaid (MassHealth). True
- 5. SSDI recipients automatically receive MassHealth and Medicare. False
- 6. SSI is adjusted in relation to earnings. As earnings increase, SSI decreases. <u>True</u>
- 7. Impairment Related Expenses (IRWEs) are expenses paid for by the individual. True
- 8. There are no asset or resource limits for SSDI. True
- 9. For SSDI, work earnings are counted in the month they are earned, not when paid. True
- 10. Trial Work Period (TWP) months have to be consecutive. False
- 11. After an SSDI recipient has completed their Trial Work Period (TWP), Social Security will see if their earnings are at or above Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). **True**
- 12. The Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE) starts the month after an individual's Trial Work Period (TWP) ends and lasts for a total of 60 months. False
- 13. A Special Condition is an expense paid for by the individual. False
- 14. Once an Employer Subsidy is in place, it is in place forever. False
- 15. Expedited Reinstatement (EXR) is only available to SSI recipients. False

Day 3 – Learning Objectives





Healthcare & Other Public Benefits

- Impact of work on healthcare benefits including:
 - Medicare
 - MassHealth
- Other public benefits such as:
 - Housing
 - Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) benefits
- Best practices of reporting and benefits counseling







Public Health Insurance Healthcare & Other Public Benefits



SSA Beneficiaries & Public Health Insurance

- Coverage an individual receives depends on:
 - SSA disability program and/or
 - Household income
- SSI beneficiaries automatically get MassHealth Standard
- SSDI beneficiaries are eligible for Medicare after 24 months of entitlement
 - Sooner if diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease or ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)
 - May also qualify for MassHealth









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MassHealth (Medicaid)





- Provides in-state health insurance coverage
 - Exception: out-of-state emergency treatment
- Covers children & adults with low income and/or a disability
- More comprehensive than other Medicaid programs
- For training purposes, we'll only review the following plans and special programs:
 - MassHealth Standard
 - Continued Medicaid Eligibility 1619(b)
 - MassHealth CommonHealth



MassHealth Standard





Eligible Individuals:

- SSI beneficiaries
- SSDI beneficiaries with income below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
 - Currently \$1,732 per month for an individual
- Children under 19 with no other means of insurance

Health Coverage:

- Inpatient services
- Outpatient services
- Prescriptions
- Dental (more extensive for children)



Continued Medicaid Eligibility 1619(b)

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- SSI health insurance work incentive
- Retains MassHealth Standard when SSI is reduced to \$0.00 due to work



- To qualify, working SSI beneficiaries must:
 - Remain disabled
 - Stay within SSI income/resource limits
 - Earn less than 2024 annual 1619(b) earnings limit:
 - \$44,965 non-blind disabled
 - \$45,814 statutorily blind

MA Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Home and Community Based Services Waivers





In Massachusetts, the HCBS Waiver Programs offer a variety of additional services to those individuals with an intellectual disability and needing long-term assistance.

The Waiver Programs may offer the following services, depending on availability and funding:

- Standard and non-standard medical services
- Case management
- Home health aide
- Transportation
- DDS-funded adult services
- Personal and respite care



DDS HCBS Waivers





Eligibility Requirements:

- The individual must be eligible for DDS services
- Must maintain MassHealth Standard
- Ineligible if on MassHealth CommonHealth
- Be 22 years old or older
- Be eligible for Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability i.e. (group home)
- Be willing to receive services in the community and
- Get DDS approval for waiver services

If the individual has **One Care**, they are **not** eligible for a waiver.

DDS HCBS Waivers (continued)





Financial Eligibility Requirements:

- Have countable assets of \$2,000 or less
- Countable income less than or equal to \$2,829 in 2024, which is 3x the SSI Federal Benefit Rate (\$943.00)

There are 3 Waivers offered in MA:

- The Adult Supports Waiver
- The Community Living Waiver
- The Intensive Supports Waiver

For a complete listing of all services offered, visit: <u>www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dmr/hcsis/hcbs-brief.pdf</u>

MassHealth CommonHealth





- Medicaid Program for:
 - SSI beneficiaries who don't qualify for 1619(b)
 - SSDI beneficiaries with income above 133% FPL



- Provides same coverage as MassHealth Standard
- Monthly premium based on total household income
- No income or asset limits for those under 65

Note: MassHealth has changed the eligibility rules so that you no longer need to be working or meet a one-time deductible to be eligible for CommonHealth.

1619(b) allows Zoe to keep MassHealth for free! (If she is still disabled, uses her MassHealth once a year,

(If she is still disabled, uses her MassHealth once a year, has less than \$2,000 and earns less than \$44,965 annually)

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MassHealth Group Activity *Please use the Annotate feature*

She begins working full-time and gets \$0.00 in SSI. What happens to MassHealth?

She Keeps MassHealth!

WHY?







MassHealth Enrollment Centers







Mailing Address

Health Insurance Processing Ctr. PO Box 4405 Taunton, MA 02780

Taunton*

21 Spring St., Suite 4 Taunton, MA 02780 (800) 242-1340 (508) 828-4600

Tewksbury

367 East Street Tewksbury, MA 01876 (800) 408-1253 (888) 665-9993

<u>*Please Note</u>: All faxes go to Taunton, the central office, for processing. Fax: (617) 887-8777

MassHealth Enrollment Centers Cont.



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Springfield 88 Industrial Ave. Ste. D Springfield, MA 01104 (800) 332-5545 (413) 785-4100	Charlestown 529 Main Street Charlestown, MA 02129 After Hours Drop Box available
Chelsea 45 Spruce Street Chelsea, MA 02150 Limited Parking but accessible by MBTA Bus	Quincy 100 Hancock Street 1 st Floor Quincy, MA 02171
Worcester 50 SW Cutoff Suite 1A Worcester, MA 01604	Unless otherwise noted all offices utilize the main Customer Service Phone Number (800) 841-2900

MassHealth Questions or Facilitator Input











Break Time



Medicare: Parts A-D





PART	COVERAGE	MONTHLY PREMIUM
А	Inpatient Services (Hospitalization)	• \$0
В	Outpatient Services (Routine visits)	 \$174.70 if started in 2024 Some individuals will have a lower Medicare Part B premium. \$0 with MassHealth "Buy In"
С	Medicare Advantage Plans	Additional cost to beneficiaryCost depends on plan
D	Prescription Drug Plans	 Cost depends on plan Full or partial help with Benchmark plan & MassHealth

Part A & B: Enrollment Rules





Part A

- SSDI beneficiaries are automatically enrolled in Part A
- Part A is premium free

Part B

- SSDI beneficiaries are automatically enrolled in Part B
- Monthly premium deducted from SSDI cash benefits
 - MassHealth will pay Part B premium if income is at or below 135% FPL
- Can opt out of Part B if you have employer health insurance
 - Must complete a form at Social Security to opt-out

Note: Once the annual deductible is met, Medicare pays 80%; Medicare Part C or MassHealth coverage will pay the other 20%

Part D: Enrollment Rules





- SSDI beneficiaries with or without MassHealth must enroll within 90 days of the start date or face a financial penalty
- SSDI beneficiaries with MassHealth:
 - Will likely be auto-enrolled by Medicare

-	7
Ξ	Q

Part D: Extra Help

• Program that helps pay for Part D:

- Annual deductible
- Drug plan premium
- Standard copayments
- Beneficiaries with MassHealth are automatically eligible
- Beneficiaries without MassHealth can apply for Extra Help through SSA every year
- Current financial eligibility guidelines for 2024:

\$22,590 for an individual and \$30,660 for a married couple

\$17,220 for an individual and

\$34,360 for a married couple

Resources less than

Yearly income below







WorkWithoutLim

Are Parts B & D Optional?





Can only opt out with health insurance through an employer or will face a financial penalty:

Part B penalty:

- 10% increase in monthly premium each year without Part B
- Stays in place until age 65

Part D penalty:

- 1% of the National Base Premium (2024 = \$0.35) multiplied by number of months without coverage
- Stays in place until age 65 or individual gets Extra Help

Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)

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MSPs:

- Have 3 coverage types
 - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
 - Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
 - Qualifying Individual (QI)
- Pay the Medicare Part B premium
- Enroll members in Medicare Part D Extra Help
- Provide drug coverage with low copays

MSPs:

- Are not Insurance plans
- Have income requirements
- Do not consider assets and resources for eligibility

MSP With and Without MassHealth





Medicare with MassHealth Program	QMB	QI	lf you have Medicare Only and are	And your monthly Income is	You May be Able to Get
MassHealth Standard Monthly Income at or below 133% FPL	Х		Single	Below \$2,385 FPL 190%	QMB
(\$1,669) CommonHealth Monthly income		X		Between \$2386 and \$2824 FPL 191% - 225%	SLMB/QI
134% to 135% FPL (\$1682 - \$1695)			Married Couple	Below \$3237 FPL 190%	QMB
Receives X MassHealth Card		Between \$3228 and \$3833 FPL 191% - 225%	SLMB/QI		

Extended Period of Medicare Coverage (EPMC)





- Continues coverage for at least 93 months after TWP ends, for those no longer receiving SSDI cash benefits
- Contact SSA to determine the length of EPMC
- Beneficiaries can either:
 - Be billed quarterly by Medicare, or
 - Request an automatic monthly withdrawal from a bank or credit card account

Medicare Group Activity 1

Please use the Annotate feature





Max receives \$1,000 in SSDI since May 2014. What could he have for health insurance?



Max gets Medicare 2 years after receiving SSDI

AND



Max can apply for MassHealth while he is waiting for Medicare

MassHealth will pay for Max's Medicare Parts D premium. MassHealth will likely pay his Part B premium because his income is below 135% FPL.

Awesome!!

Medicare Group Activity 2

Please use the Annotate feature



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Max begins working, earning \$1,200 gross per month, and still receives \$1,000 in SSDI.

What happens to his Medicare? MassHealth?

He will keep Medicare as he will continue to receive SSDI.

(This is because his gross income is below SGA)

Will Max lose MassHealth?

NO!

Max will not get MassHealth Standard (free), but he can apply for MassHealth CommonHealth and pay a premium. (His income is over \$1,732)



Medicare Resources





- · Issues with Parts A and B, contact:
 - Medicare: 1-800-633-4227 or <u>www.medicare.gov</u>
 - SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone):
 - 1-800-243-4636
 - www.shinema.org
- Issues with Parts C and D, contact provider
- For advocacy, contact:
 - Health Care for All: 1-800-272-4232
 - Health Law Advocates: 1-855-218-2519
 - Medicare Advocacy Project: 1-800-323-3205

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One Care

- Single plan that manages MassHealth and Medicare plans
- Optional for those between the ages of 21 through 64
- Exclusively available in 12 Massachusetts counties

Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester

- · Provides full set of services including dental and vision care
- Those on the DDS Waiver are not eligible

For more information, call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900





One Care

MassHealth+Medicare Bringing your care together

Medicare Questions or Facilitator Input







Public Benefits











Other Public Benefits





Public Housing:

- Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
- Dept. of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
- Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA):

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled & Children (EAEDC)
- Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)

Housing Programs





HUD

- Mobile Section 8 Voucher Program
- Local Housing Authority properties
- Supportive Housing Program
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS



 Massachusetts Voucher Rental Program



 Alternative Housing Voucher Program

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program





FSS is:

- a voluntary five-year employment and savings incentive program
- for Section 8 housing families who wish to become financially selfsufficient
- designed to help families reach personal and professional goals
- a way to save increased rent from earnings in an escrow account
- Program Benefits include:
- Case management
- Detailed plan to reach goals education, employment, financial
- Escrow savings account up to \$25,000
- First time home-buyer bonus

DTA Programs

DTA administers the following income-based programs:

- SNAP (formally known as food stamps)
- EAEDC
- TAFDC

<u>Note</u>: When household income increases, it will most likely impact allotments, cash benefits, and/or eligibility





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Available to those who are financially eligible (under \$2,001, or \$3,001, if living with a person who is disabled or a person age 60+)

Allotment intended for SNAP household

SNAP

(A person buying and preparing meals separate from household may qualify on their own)

Household Size	Max SNAP Allotment
1	\$291
2	\$535
3	\$766





Working and SNAP





When working and earning income:

- 10 days to report work to DTA
- Depending on earnings:
 - SNAP may not decrease for six months if reported by phone



• If reported in person, SNAP may be adjusted immediately

A household with a disabled person only has to meet the net income test (amount after allowable deductions).

Household Size	Max Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1,215
2	\$1,644
3	\$2,072

Note: Medical expenses can be submitted to possibly get a higher SNAP allotment

May provide small cash benefits to individuals who don't qualify for SSI, or are waiting for an SSI decision

- If applying for SSI, must provide proof of application
- If approved for SSI, part of the retroactive payment will be deducted to pay back DTA
- If denied SSI, can continue receiving EAEDC if financial eligibility requirements are met
- Max monthly payment for an individual is \$303.70















Provides temporary cash benefits to families and pregnant women who have little or no assets or income

- Benefits may include:
 - Cash benefits
 - Specialized counseling
 - Work transportation
 - Childcare
- Employment Services Program provides work readiness
 support & skills training

Note: Those with a disability are exempt from the work requirement

TAFDC and Children





Common TAFDC situations seen by CWICs:

- Parent(s) on SSI/SSDI who don't qualify for TAFDC, but have a child on TAFDC
- Only those on TAFDC can access additional benefits (Parent would be excluded)



How will a parent's income impact TAFDC for a child?

If a parent is working and receiving:

- **SSI** TAFDC will remain, even if getting only \$1.00 in SSI; if SSI is zero, then TAFDC ends
- **SSDI** If income and SSDI are below the income limit, then TAFDC remains; if over, then TAFDC ends

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DTA Contact Info:

Contact DTA

P.O. BOX 4406, Taunton, MA 02780 Phone: (877) 382-2363 (8:45 AM-4:45 PM) Fax: (617) 887-8765

DTA Connect:

Free mobile app that verifies DTA benefits

- iPhone Available at the App Store
- Android Available at Google Play



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DTA Program Questions or Facilitator Input







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Break Time



Additional SSA Programs & Information





- Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)
- Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE)
- Ticket to Work
- Representative Payee Responsibilities
- Reporting Requirements

Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)



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- Must have income other than SSI in order to fund PASS
- Used to save money for items/services to help achieve work goals
- Public benefits won't be impacted by PASS savings
- Expenses may include, but aren't limited to the following:
 - Education or vocational training
 - Start-up business costs
 - Car, laptop, internet, supplies, clothing, etc.
- · Goal is to be independent of benefits

Note: CWICs can help with the application process

ABLE Accounts

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts are Tax-Advantaged savings accounts to pay for disability-related expenses

- Annual Maximum Contribution: \$18,000
- If employed but not participating in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, can contribute an additional \$14,580
- Maximum Balance: \$500,000 in MA (varies by state)
- Anyone can contribute
- Up to \$100,000 will not count toward other public benefits
- Disability onset must be before age 26 (SSI or SSDI not required)
- Common disability-related expenses:
 - Education
 - Employment supports
 - Housing
 - Healthcare expenses
 - Transportation





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Rep Payee Responsibilities

Relative, agency, or friend authorized by SSA to:

- Speak on a beneficiary's behalf with SSA
- Receive and manage cash benefits
- Receive copies of SSA letters
- Report beneficiary's income and/or life changes to SSA
- Report annually how they managed beneficiary's funds

Note: Rep Payees cannot sign any type of contract on behalf of the beneficiary





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Ticket to Work Program



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 The Ticket to Work Program is designed to help individuals become self-sufficient (no longer receiving Social Security cash benefits)



- Provides access to free employment services from State Vocational Rehabilitation and SSA approved Employment Network (EN)
- A person can choose an EN to help them achieve their career goal
- If Ticket is assigned, the participant is exempt from medical reviews as long as timely progress is made
- For more info call 1-866-968-7842 or visit <u>www.choosework.ssa.gov</u>

Work Without Limits Employment Network (EN)





 Provides in-depth benefit counseling and long-term support for individuals earning or planning to earn \$970 or more through Social Security's Ticket to Work program



• Also partners with various vocational rehabilitation organizations to help draw income from the Ticket to Work program

Contact: Marjorie Longo Program Manager/CPWIC <u>marjorie.longo@umassmed.edu</u>

SSA Program Questions or Facilitator Input







What do you Report to Social Security?





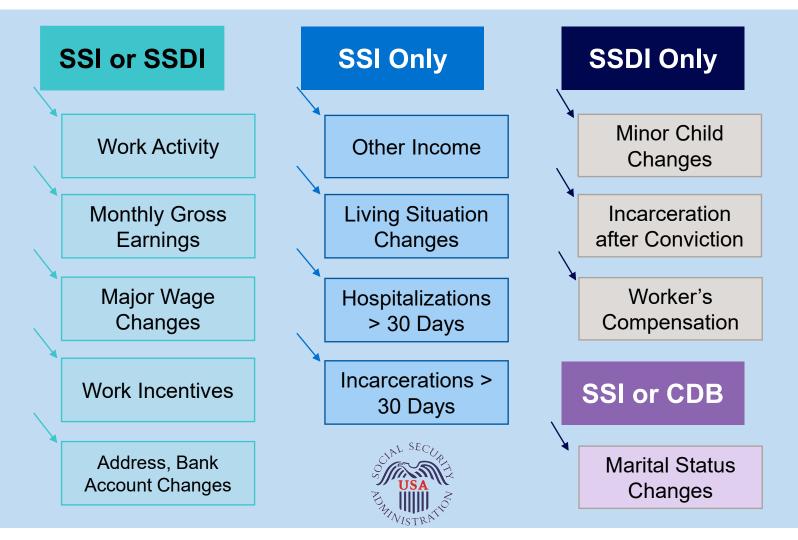
EVERYTHING!!

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Reporting Requirements: SSI & SSDI







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Reporting Best Practices





SSI	SSDI
By the 6th of every month	Once paid for all days worked in previous month

Methods of reporting :

SSI Only	SSI & SSDI
Mobile Wage Reporting app, or	Postal mail, fax, or online using
Phone-In Wage Reporting System	My Social Security Account (ssa.gov)

Beneficiary Tips for Reporting:

- Report consistently
- Request SSA receipts
- Keep SSA documents
- Report to other public agencies

Consequences of Not Reporting





SSA can impose the following, if not reporting:

Overpayments:

- Repayment of overpaid cash benefits
 - Most repaid through cash benefit withholdings
- Failure to repay may result in:
 - Tax return confiscation
 - Wage and/or bank account garnishments

Additional sanctions:

Loss of benefit for 6, 12, or 24 months



SSA Appeal Options





SSA will notify the beneficiary of an overpayment reason and appeal options:

- Request for Reconsideration (Form SSA-561)
- Request for Waiver of Overpayment Recovery (Form SSA-632)
- Request for Change in Repayment (Form SSA-632)
- Request hearing with Administrative Law Judge (HA-501)

Note:

- Must respond in a given time frame
- Forms available at:
 - www.ssa.gov/forms/
 - Local SSA office

Satisfaction Survey

- Please be sure to complete it.
- We value your comments.
- It is anonymous and confidential
- You can use the QR code on this screen to access it or a link to the evaluation will be emailed to you.







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Nuts & Bolts Closing Thoughts











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Get Connected





For updated information: www.workwithoutlimits.org

You can also find additional resources at: www.workwithoutlimits.org/contact

Today's presentation and materials can be found at: www.workwithoutlimits.org/nuts-bolts-materials

Contact Us





WIPA

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<u>EN</u>

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Thank You!

http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/benefits-counseling



