

Social Security Disability Benefits: 101

and Interface with Employment

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I'm receiving benefits....so,
Can I Work?

YES!!

Social Security offers **Employment Supports** (AKA: Work Incentives) to assist SSDI and SSI recipients to become as self sufficient as possible through work!

Each Benefit Is Affected Differently!

SSDI = All or NOTHING

SSI = Gradual Reduction

If you are on both benefits (concurrent beneficiary)...you have to look at each benefit separately!!!

SSDI Work Incentives

- Trial Work Period (TWP) 9 Months
 - May earn as much as you want and still receive full SSDI
 - \$880 Gross per month in 2019 uses a TWP month
- Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE) 36 Months
 - If countable gross monthly earnings **exceed** \$1220 (SGA), **no SSDI**
 - If countable gross monthly earnings **under** \$1220 (SGA), **get SSDI**
- Expedited Reinstatement (EXR) 60 months
 - Available once benefits are terminated due to earnings after EPE
 - Same disability = don't have to file a new application

What About My Medicare?

- SSDI payment= Medicare
- Most individuals will continue to receive at least 93 months of Medicare after the Trial Work Period ends and they are earning over SGA.
 - 93 months = 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ Years
- Must continue to pay the Medicare Part B premium.
- 2019 monthly premium= \$135.00/month for Medicare Part B (medical coverage).

SSI Work Incentives

- Social Security uses a basic calculation to determine how the SSI payment is affected.
- Earned Income Exclusion
 - \$65 of gross work income not counted
- General Income Exclusion
 - \$20 of gross work income not counted of any unearned income
- The “One For Two” Reduction

What does this look like?

Gross Monthly Work Income	\$1085
- <u>Earned Income Exclusion</u>	- <u>\$ 65</u>
Remainder	\$1020
- <u>General Income Exclusion</u>	- <u>\$ 20</u>
Remainder	\$1000
Remainder / 2	\$1000/2=\$500
Countable Income =	
Amount Your SSI Check	\$500
Will Decrease	

More Spending Money if you Work

Old Monthly SSI Payment	\$771
Subtract Countable Income	-\$500
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NEW Monthly SSI Payment	\$271

Looks like a DIS-incentive, right?

NEW Monthly SSI Payment	\$ 271
Plus Gross WORK Income	+\$1085
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NEW Monthly Gross Income	\$1356

What About My Medicaid?

1619B

If you are working and lose your SSI cash payment because your work income is too high (you hit the Break Even Point), you could keep Medicaid up to your state's threshold amount.

2019 Colorado State Threshold: \$33,692/year

Break Even Point for \$771 in SSI = \$1627/month

More Employment Supports

and this isn't all of them!

- Ticket To Work: **Ticket to Work** is Social Security's program to encourage disability recipients to return to **work**. **Ticket to Work** expands the vocational services available to people on SSDI and SSI and provides additional protections to people's disability benefits as incentives for them to attempt to return to **work**.
- Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)
- Impairment Related Work Expenses
- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE).

Social Security Disability benefits generally allow you to deduct all **impairment related work expenses** when reporting your income. The amount paid to cover **impairment related work expenses** is not counted against you when determining if you are gainfully employed for Social Security Disability purposes.

- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE).
- The **Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)** is an SSI work incentive that allows certain individuals who are under age 22 and regularly attending school to exclude a specified amount of gross **earned income** per month up to a maximum annual **exclusion**.
- In 2019, up to \$1,870 gross per month is excluded as earnings, up to an annual limit of \$7,550 without having SSI payment reduced.

- Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS).

A **PASS** is a written **plan** of action for getting a particular kind of job or starting a business. ... the money you will use to pay for these things (this may be any income (other than SSI benefits) or assets, such as Social Security benefits, wages from a current job, or savings); and. a timetable for achieving your goal.