

Going to Work

A Guide for Individuals with Disabilities



This publication was commissioned and sponsored by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Incorporated.



This publication was produced and sponsored through funding provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Developmental Disabilities and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

The Capstone Consulting Group, Inc., under contract with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. has developed this Quick Guide for the Department of Children and Families, Mental Health Program Office.



Table of Contents

I Want To Go To Work. What Do I Need To Consider? 3

How Do I Find A Job? 3

Will I Lose All Of My Healthcare Benefits If I Go To Work? 4

How Much Money Can I Make Without Losing My Cash Benefits? 4

What Are Work Incentives? 4

What Is The Ticket To Work? 6

Will I Be Eligible For Medicaid Programs? 6

Is There Anyone I Can Call To Help Me Understand The Process Better? 6

Other Places Where You Can Get Help 7



Other Places Where You Can Get Help

Information Needed	Agency	Contact Information
Questions concerning Social Security Benefits or Work Incentives	Social Security Administration	Local Field Office—See Local Phone Book, Ask for Claims Representative 1-800-772-232-4968 / voice 1-800-325-0778 / TTY www.ssa.gov/work
Medicaid Eligibility Questions	Department of Children and Families	Economic Self-Sufficiency Units, 1-800-342-0825 / voice http://www5.myflorida.com/cf_web/myflorida2/healthyhuman/ess/
Questions concerning Medicare	Center for Medicaid and Medicare	1-800-633-4227 / voice 1-877-486-2048 / TTY www.cme.gov
Vocational Rehabilitation	Department of Education	1-800-451-4327 / voice/TTY



What is Ticket to Work?

This is a new program designed to give you choices in deciding who will provide services to you to help you get back to work. These services include training, job development, and job placement. The program also protects you from Continuing Disability Reviews (the medical review that Social Security uses to determine if you are still disabled) while you participate in the Ticket to Work Program. Call *MAXIMUS* at 1-866-968-7842 for more information.

Will I be Eligible for Medicaid Programs?

There are several (7 or more) Medicaid Programs that you may qualify for. They all have different requirements and the amount of money that you can earn varies. You should contact your Medicaid Office for specific information about these programs.

This is all Very Confusing. Is There Anyone I Can Call to Help Me Understand it Better?

You can make a free call to your local Benefits Planning, Assistance & Outreach (BPAO) program at 1-866-352-2725 if you need help in making a decision about whether work is right for you. Each program has Benefits Specialists that have been trained by Social Security to explain the work incentives and help you understand how the money you earn from work will affect other benefits and services like housing, transportation, and health care.

I Want To Go To Work. What Do I Need to Consider?

- Will my health allow me to work?
- What supports will I need?
- Will these supports be available to me as I start a new job?
- Will these supports be available to me to maintain employment in the future?
- Do I have available transportation to get to my job?
- What kinds of workplace accommodations will be needed?
- Do I need all the benefits that I currently receive or do I just need access to health care?
- Can I get health insurance through my job?
- How much can I work before my benefits are reduced or stopped?
- What are the specific dollar amounts where changes to my benefits will occur?

The One Stop Center in your community is a great place to start

How Do I Find A Job?

your job search. Check the white pages of your local phone book for information. The state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program is another important resource. VR Counselors focus on your strengths, skills, and interests in assisting you with vocational planning. You can contact the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 1-800-451-4327 voice/TTY.

Will I Lose All Of My Healthcare Benefits If I Go To Work?

Not necessarily. It depends on several factors:

- How much are you making
- If you qualify for Medicaid or Work Incentives

How Much Money Can I Make Without Losing My Case Benefits?

- If you are receiving SSDI and are not blind, you can make **\$780** per month before you risk losing your cash benefits
- If you are blind, this amount is **\$1300** per month
- You may be able to earn more than these amounts if you use a work incentive

What Are Work Incentives ?

The Social Security Administration has a number of work incentives that may allow you to earn more income or keep benefits longer. Be sure to ask about them.



What Are Work Incentives? (continued)

If you receive SSI (Supplemental Security Income)

- Earned Income Exclusion
- Student Earned Income Exclusion
- SSI Payments under 1619(a)
- Expedited Reinstatement
- Plan for Achieving Self-Supporting (PASS)
- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
- Continued Medicaid Coverage under 1619(b)
- Reinstatement of Eligibility under 1619(a)

If you receive SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)

- Trial Work Period (TWP)
- Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- Expedited Reinstatement
- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
- Subsidy and Special Conditions
- Continuation of "Free" Medicare for 8.5 years