

How will working affect my Social Security or SSI disability benefits?

Congress has changed the rules to encourage disability beneficiaries to work. Social Security Disability and SSI have different rules for employment, but both programs have provisions that let you work. Both programs also have rules that allow some work expenses to be deducted from your income.

In general, disability beneficiaries can:

- Work part-time, limit your income, and continue to receive Social Security or SSI cash benefits and Medicare or Medicaid health care coverage;
OR
- Work full-time and continue to have health care coverage from Medicare, Medicaid or both.
- Deduct some work expenses from your earnings, so that they are not counted by Social Security.

Get expert advice about your benefits before you go to work

If you receive Social Security or SSI disability benefits, be sure to talk to a work incentives specialist before you start working. To request free work incentives counseling, call the Employment Sources Hotline, toll-free 1-866-283-7900. It's free and confidential. They'll make sure that you know about all of the rules that can help you, and help you avoid any pitfalls.

Can I work if I'm in a Medicaid waiver?

Yes, Medicaid waiver participants can work, and some waiver services can be used at work. Waiver participants can earn up to \$980 per month in 2009 from working, as long as their total monthly income does not exceed \$2,022. In some cases they can earn much more. Waiver participants also need to consider how working will affect other benefits they receive, especially Social Security or SSI.

Alternative Community Services (ACS) waiver

The ACS waiver serves persons with developmental disabilities. One of the waiver services is supported employment. Supported employment can assist individuals with finding a job, learning job duties, behavior modification, communications, etc.

Alternatives for Adults with Physical Disabilities (AAPD) waiver

The AAPD waiver serves persons with physical disabilities. Waiver attendant care services can be used to help get ready for work, assist with travelling to work, or assist in the workplace.

Individual enrolled in the Working Disabled program can now use AAPD waiver services. This will allow individuals to work full-time, earn a good income, and still use waiver services.

For more information

For more information about employment and waivers, call the Employment Sources Hotline, toll-free 1-866-283-7900. It's free and confidential.

How will working affect Food Stamps, housing, etc.?

Any time your income increases, it will have an effect on benefits such as Food Stamps or housing subsidies. However, if you work you may qualify for new benefits such as the **Earned Income Tax Credit**.