

Receive Benefits Counseling Through Your Waiver

What is WIPA?

WIPA stands for Work Incentives Planning and Assistance. It is a federal program paid for by the Social Security Administration and its purpose is to promote employment among those receiving disability benefits.

How does WIPA work?

If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and want to work (or if you already work), talk to a Certified Work Incentives Counselor to receive accurate and timely information about how your earnings may impact your SSI or SSDI cash and healthcare benefits. A Supports Coordinator can help you contact a CWIC through WIPA.

I want to work, but my Supports Coordinator says that I am not eligible or there is a wait list and services will not be available within 30 calendar days through the WIPA. Is there anything I can do now?

Yes, within the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS waivers, Benefits Counseling Service is available and may be right for you.

What is Benefits Counseling through my ODP waiver?

Benefits Counseling is a service provided through the Consolidated, Community Living, and P/FDS waivers. It will provide you with information and will enable you to receive answers to questions you may have regarding work and your Social Security benefits.

Benefits Counseling involves an individualized assessment of your situation. It will help you to see which work incentives are available to you, if you receive Supplemental Security Income, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, housing subsidies, food stamps, etc. This is important as you want to ensure the best way of maintaining those benefits while you work and earn an income.

Will the providers of my Social Security and other public assistance-related benefits place any requirements on me if I work? If so, will Benefits Counseling help me to understand what I must do to work and maintain benefits?

Yes, requirements to report work income are likely in most public benefit programs, such as Medical Assistance and Social Security. Benefits Counseling will help provide information and education regarding these requirements. Your Benefits Counselor can help you understand these requirements and how to meet them, so that you remain in compliance with each program.

