

2014 WORKBOOK

Work and Benefit options of ssdi, ssi, medicare and medicaid benefits you

FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING DISABILITY BENEFITS

THIS IS FOR YOU IF:

- You have a job or want a job AND
- You receive Social Security disability benefits OR
- You receive Supplemental Security Income OR
- You receive both benefits

CONTENTS

- 2 | Frequently asked questions
- 4 | If you receive SSDI
- 10 | If you receive SSI
- 16 | If you receive both SSDI and SSI
- 19 | Frequently used words



This workbook will help you understand

your benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and how you have more money when you work.

Why do we need a workbook like this?

- Because the regulations about benefits are complicated.
- Because you have responsibility to share information about your income with Social Security Administration and Job and Family Services.
- So that you have the information you need to make good choices.
- So that you keep all the benefits you qualify for, once you start working.

This workbook can't contain every bit of information about how benefits apply in your situation. For that, you need a benefits analysis from Benefits Analyst, Ron Swain. You can contact him toll-free at **888.971.7356**, or by email at rswain@FairfieldDD.com.

NOTE:

This material is intended to help people with disabilities understand work and benefit options. The examples are for illustration only. The Social Security Administration makes all decisions about benefits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I work, when I already get a check?

- Your combined income, from benefits and wages, will be higher when you work than if you don't.
- Work is a good way to meet people and make friends.
- When you have a job or a business, you feel good about yourself, because you are using your strengths and what you know to do something valuable.
- Staying active is better than being bored.

Will my SSDI or SSI check change if I start working?

- It depends. This workbook will help you understand how income from work affects your check.
- The Social Security Administration has rules that make it a good deal to take a job or start a business. You can use work incentives to increase your monthly income.
- If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), start on page 6.
- If you receive Supplemental Security Income, start on page 12.
- If you receive both SSDI and SSI, start on page 18.

Will Social Security and Job and Family Services let me work?

• Yes! Many work incentives described in this workbook are in place to encourage you to work.

What happens to my other benefits?

- Eligibility for Food Stamps is determined by Job and Family Services.
- Eligibility for rent assistance is determined by Metropolitan Housing.
- Eligibility for help with utilities (HEAP) is determined by the Ohio Department of Development.
- It is important to let these agencies know whenever your income changes.

What if I lose my job or my hours get cut?

■ You should notify the Social Security Administration as soon as possible. In fact, you should let Social Security and Job and Family Services know about any changes in your work, whether you earn more income or less income, so that they can adjust your benefits properly.



If you receive SSDI

SSDI = Social Security Disability Insurance

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE

- Covers you if you have worked at least 5 of the last 10 years in a job where you paid taxes to Social Security (less if you become eligible at age 31 or younger)
- Starts if you become disabled and can no longer work
- Also applies to an individual with a disability who is a dependent of a retired, deceased or disabled worker
- Ends if you recover and no longer are considered disabled
- Has special features:
 - Trial Work Period,
 - Extended Period of Eligibility, and
 - Expedited Reinstatement

MEDICARE

- The government health care program for people over age 65 and for individuals who receive SSDI benefits
- Starts two years after SSDI begins

TRIAL WORK PERIOD

- Begins when you earn more than \$770 (2014 standard) in any month
- If you are self-employed, begins when you work more than 80 hours in a month
- Ends 9 months after you meet one of these standards, not necessarily 9 months in a row
- Allows you to earn as much as you can and keep your whole SSDI check and Medicare coverage
- Does not require you to reapply for benefits during the Trial Work Period

EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY

- May apply if you continue to have a qualifying disability and earn no more than \$1,070 in a month (Substantial Gainful Activity)
- Continues SSDI benefits for up to 36 months
- Does not require you to reapply for benefits during the Extended Period of Eligibility

EXPEDITED REINSTATEMENT

Offers a 5-year safety net when it is easy to restart SSDI checks if needed

MEDICARE COVERAGE

- Continues during the Trial Work Period, the Extended Period of Eligibility, and during Expedited Reinstatement, as long as you pay the Part B premium
- Includes Part A, Part B and prescription drug coverage under Part D
- May include "extra help" to cover the Medicare Part D premium if you receive less than \$1,400 per month

Meet Jim

- Jim receives a monthly SSDI check of \$900.
- Jim got a job as a data processer and earns \$1,100 per month.
- His new monthly income is \$2,000 per month.
- During his 9-month Trial Work Period he can earn any amount.
- His Medicare coverage continues, too.



EXAMPLE:

JIM'S INCOME DURING HIS TRIAL WORK PERIOD

Step 1	SSDI monthly check	\$900	
Step 2	Add gross monthly wages	+ \$1100	
Step 3	Total monthly income	= \$2000	

Jim has **\$985** more each month!

EXAMPLE:

JIM'S INCOME DURING HIS EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY

Step 1	Gross monthly wages	\$1,100	
Step 2	Subtract Impairment-Related Work Expenses	- \$115	
Step 3	Countable monthly wages	= \$985	

UNDER \$1,040 IN WAGES: ADD ADJUSTED MONTHLY WAGES TO THE EXISTING SSDI BENEFIT

Step 4	SSDI check	\$900	
Step 5	Add countable monthly wages	+ \$985	
Step 6	New total monthly income	= \$1,885	

NOTE:

The rules for earnings change after the Trial Work Period ends. Then countable wages must be less than Substantial Gainful Activity (\$1,070) to continue SSDI. Blind SGA is \$1,800.

Now it's your turn!

TRIAL WORK PERIOD WORKSHEET

Step 1	SSDI monthly check	\$	
Step 2	Add gross monthly wages	+ \$	
Step 3	Total monthly income	= \$	

NOTE: The rules for earnings change after the Trial Work Period ends.

EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET

Step 1	Gross monthly wages	\$	
Step 2	Subtract Impairment-Related Work Expenses	- \$	
Step 3	Countable monthly wages	= \$	

UNDER \$1,070 IN WAGES: ADD ADJUSTED MONTHLY WAGES TO THE EXISTING SSDI BENEFIT

Step 4	SSDI check	\$	
Step 5	Add countable monthly wages	+ \$	
Step 6	New total monthly income	= \$	

OVER \$1.070 IN WAGES: NO SSDI CASH BENEFIT

Step 4	SSDI check	\$00	
Step 5	Add countable monthly wages	+ \$	
Step 6	New total monthly income	= \$	

KEY POINTS ABOUT SSDI WHEN YOU GO TO WORK:

- Earning more than \$770 a month or working for yourself more than 80 hours a month starts a 9-month Trial Work Period. Your SSDI check does not change during the Trial Work Period. The Trial Work Period ends on the last day of the ninth month when your earnings from work are more than \$770 per month.
- After 9 months, you begin a 36-month Extended Period of Eligibility.
 During the Extended Period of Eligibility, your SSDI check is either all or nothing. If your countable wages are more than \$1,070 in a month, your SSDI check stops for that month. If you earn less than \$1,070 in a month, your SSDI continues. Impairment-Related Work Expenses are deducted from earned income to calculate countable wages.
- During the 5-year Extended Period of Eligibility, it is easy to restart SSDI benefits. If your SSDI stops because of your earnings and then your countable wages drop below \$1,070 per month, your SSDI starts again.
- Medicare coverage can continue up to 8 years after the Trial Work Period.

Start Work TRIAL WORK **PERIOD** 9 MONTHS CONTINUE **EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY** EDICARE **36 MONTHS EXPEDITED** REINSTATEMENT **PERIOD 5 YEARS** Independence

A lengthy safety net!

If you receive SSI

SSI =

Supplemental Security Income

Earned Income Exclusion applies to income from working

General Income
Exclusion
applies to earned or
unearned income

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

- Covers you if you are considered aged, blind or disabled, have limited income and have less than \$2,000 in assets for a single person or \$3,000 for a married couple
- Provides a monthly check of \$721 for a single person or \$1,082 per month for a married couple
- Allows you to earn up to \$65 per month without changing your SSI check (Earned Income Exclusion)
- Allows you to deduct another \$20 from earned income (General Income Exclusion), if SSI and earnings from work are your only sources of income
- Deducts \$1 from your SSI check for every \$2 you earn over \$85
- Does not require you to reapply for benefits as long as you continue to be medically disabled and earn less than \$2,930 per month and meet certain other requirements

IRWE =

Impairment-Related Work Expense

The cost of goods and services that are medically necessary for you to work and are necessary to be able to do the job and are paid in cash, not in kind

PASS =

Plan to Achieve Self-Support

Income and other resources set aside under an approved plan to make it possible to reach a work goal and become financially self-supporting

IMPAIRMENT-RELATED WORK EXPENSES

- May be deductible if necessary to do your job
- Examples:
 - Costs of prescribed medications not covered by health insurance such as Medicaid
 - Costs of special transportation to and from work

SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

- Saving for future goals, such as:
- Going to school
- Purchasing a vehicle or equipment
- Starting a business
- Reaching a career goal
- Must be written as a Plan to Achieve Self-Support and approved by a Social Security Administration PASS Specialist

Meet Jane

- Jane receives a monthly SSI check of \$721, revising to \$321 based on earnings.
- Jane has a job as a part-time file clerk and earns \$895 per month.
- Her new monthly income is \$1,216 per month.
- Her Medicaid coverage continues, too.
- She gains \$495 per month by working.



Jane has \$495 more each month!

EXAMPLE: JANE'S INCOME AFTER SHE GOES TO WORK Step 1 Gross monthly wages \$895 Subtract Earned Income Exclusion - \$65 Step 2 Subtract General Income Exclusion - \$20 Step 3 Step 4 Subtract Impairment-Related Work Expenses - \$10 Countable earned income \$800 Step 5 Step 6 Divide adjusted earned income by 2 STEP 5 \$800 ÷ 2 = \$400 Step 7 Deduct amount from step 6 from SSI \$721 SSI benefit amount to calculate new STEP 6 - \$400 NEW SSI = \$321 SSI amount \$321 Step 8 Add new SSI amount to gross monthly SSI wages to calculate new monthly income **WAGES + \$895** TOTAL = \$1,216

Now it's your turn!

SSI WO	RKSHEET		
Step 1	Gross monthly wages	\$	
Step 2	Subtract Earned Income Exclusion	- \$65	
Step 3	Subtract General Income Exclusion	- \$20	
Step 4	Subtract Impairment-Related Work Expenses	- \$	
Step 5	Countable earned income	\$	
Step 6	Divide adjusted earned income by 2	\$ = \$	÷ 2
Step 7	Deduct amount from step 6 from SSI benefit amount to calculate new SSI amount	\$ - \$ = \$	
Step 8	Add new SSI amount to gross monthly wages to calculate new monthly income	\$ + \$ = \$	

How much more income will you have?

- A. After employment (step 8) \$
- B. Before employment (SSI) **\$721**
- C. Increase in income (A-B) \$

If you receive SSI

Medicaid =

Health care program for individuals who receive SSDI or SSI and have limited income and assets; managed by Job and Family Services

MEDICAID HEALTH INSURANCE

- Provides coverage through Medicaid for individuals who are considered medically disabled
- Allows you to keep Medicaid with gross monthly earnings up to \$2,930, even if your SSI checks stop

TIP

- If you go into the hospital for treatment, your Medicaid continues, even though your check may go down or stop.
- Tell the Social Security office and your Job and Family Services caseworker as soon as possible after entering the hospital, or beforehand, if you know in advance.

MEDICAID BUY-IN FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES (MBIWD)

- Allows you to keep Medicaid when you work
- Requires paying a reasonable premium, if your total family income is more than 150% of poverty level

150% OF POVERTY LEVEL FOR 2013

- I \$1,437
- 2 \$1,939
- 3 \$2,442
- 4 \$2,944
- 5 \$3,447

Step 1	Total monthly household income		\$
Step 2	Subtract 150% of poverty level for the number of people in the household (from table above)	-	\$
Step 3	Adjusted family income	=	\$
Step 4	Multiply adjusted family income (step 3) by 10% to calculate monthly premium x 10%	=	\$
Step 5	Subtract any other health insurance premium	-	\$
Step 6	Adjusted monthly premium (step 4 minus step 5)	=	\$

If you receive both SSDI and SSI

SSDI =

Social Security
Disability Insurance

SSI =

Supplemental Security Income

Earned Income
Exclusion
applies to income
from working

RECEIVING BOTH SSDI AND SSI

- Allows you to receive benefits under both SSDI and SSI if the SSDI amount is less than \$741 per month
- Allows you to earn up to \$65 per month from work without changing your SSI check (Earned Income Exclusion)
- Deducts \$1 from your SSI check for every\$2 you earn over \$65

TICKET TO WORK

- Designed to encourage SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients to work
- Offers an additional work incentive that delays the Continuing Disability Review when you work
- Increase awareness of the importance of benefits planning

Meet Jose

- Jose receives a monthly SSDI check of \$411 and a monthly SSI check of \$330, revising to \$30 based on earnings.
- Jose has a job as a retail clerk and earns \$695 per month.
- His new monthly income is \$1,136.

JOSE'S INCOME AFTER HE GOES TO WORK

- His Medicare and Medicaid coverage continues, too.
- He gains \$395 per month by working.

SSI amount

new monthly income

Step 7

EXAMPLE:



Jose has \$395 more each month!

Gross monthly wages \$695 Step 1 Subtract Earned Income Exclusion - \$65 Step 2 Subtract Impairment-Related Work Expenses - \$30 Step 3 Step 4 Countable monthly earned income \$600 \$600 ÷ 2 Step 5 Divide monthly earned income by 2 = \$300 \$330 Step 6 Deduct amount from step 5 from SSI SSI benefit amount to calculate new STEP 5 - \$300

Add new SSI amount to SSDI amount

and gross monthly wages to calculate

= \$30

SSDI + \$411

WAGES + \$695 TOTAL = \$1,136

\$30

NEW SSI

SSI

Now it's your turn!

SSDI PLUS SSI WORKSHEET				
Step 1	Gross monthly wages			\$
Step 2	Subtract Earned Income Exclusion		-	\$65
Step 3	Subtract Impairment-Related Work Exp	penses	-	\$
Step 4	Countable monthly earned income			\$
Step 5	Divide monthly earned income by 2		=	\$ ÷ 2 \$
Step 6	Deduct amount from step 5 from SSI benefit amount to calculate new SSI amount	SSI STEP 5 NEW SSI	- =	\$ \$ \$
Step 7	Add new SSI amount to SSDI amount and gross monthly wages to calculate new monthly income	SSI SSDI WAGES TOTAL	+ + =	\$ \$ \$ \$

How much more income will you have?

A.	After employment (step 7)	\$
B.	Before employment (SSDI + SSI)	- \$741
C.	Increase in income (A-B)	\$

FREQUENTLY USED WORDS

BENEFITS ANALYST Someone who provides planning, assistance

and training regarding Social Security and

state and local benefits

BENEFITS Income, supports and subsidies received

based on a qualifying disability and,

sometimes, financial need

BLIND WORK EXPENSE Deductions from earnings, based on

work expenses, when calculating an

SSI benefit amount

CHILDHOOD

DISABILITY BENEFIT before the age of 22 and whose parent paid

into Social Security and is now retired,

Benefits for an adult who became disabled

disabled or deceased

CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVE Employee of the Social Security

Administration who processes and helps

individuals applying for or receiving benefits

CONTINUING DISABILITY

REVIEW

Process of collecting current information

about your disability and any work

activity, to determine whether your

benefits will continue

EARNED INCOME Money received from wages; money paid

to you for doing a job

EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

See page 12

EXCLUSIONS

Money that is not counted when calculating

a benefit amount

EXTENDED PERIOD
OF ELIGIBILITY

See page 11

GENERAL INCOME EXCLUSION

See page 12

IRWE

Impairment-Related Work Expense

See page 13

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Help you get from someone else to cover part or all of your housing costs; may cause

a reduction in SSI

INCOME

See Earned income and Unearned income

INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Someone who can't work and be

self-supporting because of a physical or mental impairment that will last at least

one year or indefinitely

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Agency that manages food stamps, Medicaid

and other benefits

MEDICAID

See page 8

MEDICARE

See page 6

PROPERTY ESSENTIAL TO SELF-SUPPORT

Things you need to take care of yourself, which are not counted as part of resource

and asset limits

PASS Plan to Achieve Self-Support

See page 13

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency of the federal government that

manages SSDI and SSI

SSDI Social Security Disability Insurance

See page 6

SSI Supplemental Security Income

See page 12

STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

Up to \$1,750 per month and up to \$7,060 per year of earnings that can be excluded (not counted) for SSI recipients under age 22 who

are students

SUBSIDY Support received at work resulting in pay

greater in value than actual work performed;

may be deducted from earnings to determine countable earned income

SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY

See page 7

See page 11

TRIAL WORK PERIOD

WORK INCENTIVES Ways of treating earned income that

encourage people to work

Work benefits you

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