

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)
Social Security Work Incentives
2016 Quick Reference Guide

	Title II (SSDI, SSCDB, SSDWB)	Title XVI (SSI)
Benefit Name	SSDI: Social Security Disability Insurance SSCDB: Social Security Childhood Disability Benefits (formerly DAC) SSDWB: Social Security Disabled Widower Benefit	SSI: Supplemental Security Income
Basic Eligibility Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disability insurance benefit--worker on record must have reached insured status 2. Must meet SSA disability criteria 3. SSCDB & SSDWB must meet additional criteria 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial needs based benefit--little to no income or resources 2. Must meet SSA disability criteria
Cash Check Amount	Based on work record	Maximum \$733 for individual, \$1,100 for couple (2015), reduced if other income is received.
Resource Limit	None	Yes: \$2000 individual, \$3000 couple
Health Insurance	Medicare, after 24 month waiting period	Medicaid
General Work Rule	Benefit check is all or nothing, based on whether countable earnings are above or below Substantial Gainful Activity-SGA, \$1,130/month (\$1,820/month if blind) for 2015	Benefit check is reduced \$1 for every \$2 earned after the first \$85/month-(if there is unearned income, after the first \$65/month).
Automatic Work Incentives	Trial Work Period (TWP): 9 months to work and earn an unlimited amount and keep benefit check. 1 TWP month is used each time earnings are over \$810/month, if self-employed – work over 80 hrs/mo or earn over \$810/month (2016). When all 9 months are used within 5 years, TWP will end.	1619b: Keep Medicaid and SSI eligibility status when earned income gets so high that it causes the SSI check to become \$0. Earn up to \$34,543/year (2015), higher if individualized threshold applies.
	Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE): After the last TWP month is used, the following month starts the EPE. EPE lasts for the next 36 consecutive months. Each month <i>countable earnings</i> are above SGA, don't receive benefit check that month. Each month <i>countable earnings</i> are below SGA, receive benefit check that month. Don't have to reapply to reinstate benefit check, <i>maintain eligibility status</i> .	Reinstating Eligibility Without a New Application: SSI can be reinstated without a new application if become ineligible for SSI for any reason except medical cessation and work, and if situation changes within 12 months.
	Grace Period: After TWP finished, the first pattern of <i>countable earnings</i> above SGA you keep the benefit check that month and the following 2 months regardless of your earnings.	Medicaid Works (Virginia Medicaid Buy-In): Medicaid Works may be an option if your earnings are expected to exceed the 1619B threshold and you would like to save over the \$2000.00 resource limit.
	Continuation of Medicare (CM): If cash benefits cease due to work, Medicare can continue for at least 93 months after TWP ends.	Once initial eligibility determination has been made for Medicaid Works, an individual can maintain Medicaid while earning up to \$47,460/ year and have resources up to \$33,862.
Expedited Reinstatement (ExR): After EPE ends, if <i>countable earnings</i> go above SGA eligibility will end. If <i>countable earnings</i> drop below SGA within 60 months of termination and you are unable to perform SGA, you may request reinstatement of benefits. Up to 6 months of provisional benefits can be provided while SSA makes a decision on the request.		

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Additional Work Incentives	Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE): Out of pocket, impairment-related expenses needed to work are deducted from gross earnings to determine <i>countable earnings</i> for SGA.	Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE): Out of pocket, impairment-related expenses needed to work are deducted from earned income when calculating the SSI check amount.
	Subsidy/Special Conditions: Support received on the job which results in the receiving more pay than the value of the services performed. Only the portion of the pay that reflects the value of the work actually performed is included in calculating <i>countable earnings</i> for the SGA test.	Subsidy/Special Conditions (For SSI, used at initial eligibility only)
		Property Essential To Self Support (PESS): Resources essential to self-support are not counted in resource test, such as property used in business or used for work as an employee.
	Unpaid Help & Unincurred Business Expenses (self-employed): The value of contributions made by others to the business are deducted from Net Earnings from Self Employment (NESE) to determine <i>countable earnings</i> for the SGA test.	Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE): If under 22 years of age and regularly attending school, the first \$7180/year (2015) of earned income is excluded when calculating the SSI check amount. Max of \$1780/month (2015).
	Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS): An SSI Work Incentive, but can be used by Title II beneficiaries if they can meet SSI eligibility criteria after Title II income is excluded by PASS.	Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS): Under an approved plan, a person sets aside income and/or resources for a specified time to reach a work goal. Income and/or resources set aside under a PASS are excluded when calculating the SSI check amount and must be used to purchase work-related items/services. The work goal must include reducing need for SSI or eliminating need for Title II.
	Medicare for Individuals with Disabilities who Work: If use up Continuation of Medicare (see above) and work causes cash benefit to stop, can buy Medicare if still disabled.	Blind Work Expenses (BWE): For individuals who meet SSA's definition of blindness, the amount of earned income used to pay for work-related expenses is deducted from earnings when calculating the SSI check amount.
	Unsuccessful Work Attempt: When an effort to do substantial work stopped or reduced to below SGA after a short time (6 months or less) due to impairment or removal of special conditions, earnings during the period do not count in determining SGA for cessation or initial eligibility.	Unsuccessful Work Attempt (initial eligibility only):
	Section 301: If found medically improved while under a vocational rehabilitation program, benefits can continue if it is an appropriate program and increases the likelihood of permanent removal from disability benefit program.	Section 301: If found medically improved while under a vocational rehabilitation program, benefits can continue if it is an appropriate program and increases the likelihood of permanent removal from disability benefit program.
Ticket to Work: Employment Networks (ENs) assist beneficiaries secure and maintain employment to reach self-sufficiency; in return they receive payment from SSA. If the beneficiary assigns the Ticket to an EN and follows timely progress, medical reviews are suspended.	Ticket to Work: Employment Networks (ENs) assist beneficiaries secure and maintain employment to reach self-sufficiency; in return they receive payment from SSA. If the beneficiary assigns the Ticket to an EN and follows timely progress, medical reviews are suspended.	

For more information or to receive benefits planning services; please contact vaACCSES at: **1-877-822-2777** or find more information at: <http://www.vaaccses.org/wipa/>

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