

WORK INCENTIVES

Working and Keeping Benefits

When you turn 18 (or sometimes before), you may be able to get help to pay for food, housing, or other important things that keep you safe and healthy. This benefit is from the Social Security Administration (SSA), called **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**. If you get SSI (you must meet eligibility rules), you will get a check every month to help support you with your basic needs for things like rent, food, and clothing. The amount of that check may be different from month to month. **Work Incentives** are special rules the SSA makes to help you keep as much of your monthly SSI check as possible while working. These rules make it easier for you to try working without worrying about losing your SSI benefits right away.

Why are **WORK INCENTIVES IMPORTANT?**



EARN MORE MONEY

Most of the time, you will earn more money if you receive SSI **AND** go to work.



INCREASE INDEPENDENCE

Going to work can make you more independent and able to buy and do what you need and want. Work incentives can help you **earn more and save money** to achieve your work and independent living goals.



TRY EMPLOYMENT

You can try working and keep the benefits that help you. If a job doesn't work out, you will still receive your monthly SSI or SSDI check while you decide whether to try a different job.

What are **EXAMPLES OF WORK INCENTIVE?**

Student Earned Income Exclusion: You can work and earn a certain amount of money without affecting your SSI benefits.

Plan to Achieve Self-support: You can save money from your paycheck for a specific work goal, which won't count as income.

Impairment-Related Work Expenses: You can save money to pay for things you need to work because of your disability, like special equipment or medicines. What you spend won't be counted as income.

If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), there are also work incentives.

Trial Work Period: You can try working for nine months and keep your SSDI benefits.

Extended Eligibility Period: You can try working for three years, and if you have to reduce your hours, you can still get your SSDI payment.

Many more work incentives can help you earn money, save for important work expenses, and keep all or part of your SSI and/or SSDI.

Work incentives can help you be more confident about working, become more independent, and help meet your needs.

Working is a way to build your future. Work incentives can help.

You can learn more at <https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/index.html>

Who Can Help Me Learn More about Work Incentives?



Your DARS Counselor



Your Case Manager



Benefits Planners

TRY WORK! YOU CAN DO IT!



www.peatc.org



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