

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA)

If your patient receives disability benefits from the Social Security Administration, and is interested in working or learning more about how working would affect their benefits, they can get help from a community organization known as a Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) project. The WIPA replaced the former Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach (BPAO) Program, in September 30, 2006.



WIPA is one of 104 local organizations that has arranged with Social Security to provide information and planning services about work and work incentives to Social Security (SSDI) and SSI disability beneficiaries. The ultimate goal of the new WIPA project is to support the successful employment of beneficiaries with disabilities.

Who is eligible for WIPA services?

- All Social Security-SSDI and SSI disability beneficiaries age 14 and over.
- Beneficiaries do not have to be working, or even have decided to work, to get services.

What services are provided? WIPA can:

- Answer questions about how part-time, full time, or seasonal work would affect their individual disability benefits and other benefits you may receive from Federal, State, and local programs.
- Answer questions about how work would affect their health care.
- Answer questions about SSA work incentives and work incentives of other programs.
- Discuss individual employment goals, including possible barriers and the resources/services needed to overcome any barriers.
- Help plan how to use these work incentives or other benefits for a successful return to work.
- Help the beneficiaries use their Ticket to Work and find an Employment Network (EN) that is right for them.

Who do I contact for services?

- Organizations in every state and territory in the United States have arranged with SSA to provide WIPA services to SSA beneficiaries. SSA maintains a list of WIPAs on its website. To find the nearest WIPA program for the patient go to the following website <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/oesp/providers.nsf/byonestate!openview&restricttcategory=CA>.
- To call directly the toll-free number is 1-800-772-1213 or (TTY) 1-800-325-0778.