

Work incentives assistance to the individual and their selected representatives include but are not limited to:

- Identification and referral to employment related education, training, placement services, personal support services, and consumer advocacy services as needed.
- Assistance in establishing eligibility with other public programs such as SNAP, housing, and TANF.
- Analyzing benefits and how they support your return to work.
- Development of a PASS to set aside income and resources for a specific work goal.



Benefits Specialists will follow along with participants in work incentives planning.

Would you benefit from Protection & Advocacy Services?

The PABSS program is a federally-funded initiative to assist beneficiaries of Social Security who are trying to return to or begin working. This Project is staffed by licensed attorneys and advocates who are able to provide legal and advocacy assistance with return to work issues.

Disability Rights South Dakota
2520 E. Franklin St., Ste 2
Pierre, SD 57501
1-800-658-4782- voice/TDD
Email: drsd@drsdlaw.org

If you are thinking about working and you need general information about the Ticket to Work or Social Security work incentives contact 1-866-968-7842. If you are working or about to go to work, please contact the person in the list below who serves your area.

SDBSN Contact Information:

Central Region

Phone: (605) 494-3601 or (800) 224-5336 ext: 1521
Email: tbame@bhssc.org

Western Region

Phone: (605) 394-5120 ext: 236
Email: mhosman@bhssc.org

Sioux Falls

Phone: (800) 224-5336 ext: 1521

Bonnie Gusso - Southeast Region

Phone: (605) 668-3050
Email: bonnie.gusso@state.sd.us

Brad Konechne - Northeast Region

Phone: (605) 692-7516
bkonechne@bhssc.org

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SOUTH DAKOTA
BENEFITS SPECIALIST
NETWORK

A Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program

MEETING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



**A Program of
Black Hills Special Services**

Using Your Benefits To Move Toward Self-Sufficiency

A Benefits Specialist can provide advice and support on: Social Security work incentives, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, TANF, Housing Assistance, and other disability related benefits.

Information about Social Security benefits is provided on an individual basis. Plans for additional services are developed with you as needed. Accommodations will be provided upon request.

Social Security Benefits:

SSI (Supplemental Security Income):

Cash assistance payments to aged, blind and people with disabilities (including children under age 18) who have limited income and resources.

SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance):

Provides benefits to disabled or blind people who are “insured” based on the worker’s contributions to the Social Security trust fund.

Social Security work incentives are supports which help you try to work and become self-supporting.

PASS (Plan for Achieving Self-Support):

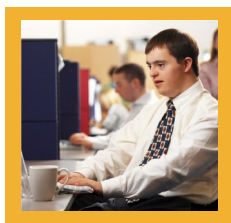
A PASS is a SSA-approved plan for your specific work goal. A PASS lets you set aside income and resources to achieve the work goal.

IRWE (Impairment Related Work Expense):

This incentive is for SSI and SSDI beneficiaries. It allows work related out-of-pocket expenses needed due to a disability that can be excluded when counting your earnings. Examples include medications, medical supplies and service animals.

Subsidies:

These are supports you receive on the job that may result in you receiving more pay than the actual value of the services you perform. Social Security considers a SSA-approved subsidy when making a Substantial Gainful Activity decision.



You can work without losing your health benefits.

BWE (Blind Work Expense):

A BWE is a work-related expense for an item needed by a SSI beneficiary who is blind.

TWP (Trial Work Period):

This incentive for SSDI beneficiaries allows you to test your ability to work for up to 9 months depending on your circumstances. During this period, you will receive your full SSDI benefit, regardless of earnings, as long as you continue to have a disability.

SGA (Substantial Gainful Activity):

Beginning January 1, 2020, a SSDI beneficiary can earn \$1,260 a month and remain eligible for benefits; however, with some work incentives it could be more.

SEIE (Student Earned Income Exclusion):

This incentive for SSI beneficiaries allows people under the age of 22 regularly attending school to exclude up to \$1,900 of earned income per month and \$7,670 annually in 2020.

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In certain situations, you may be eligible to continue receiving Medicaid benefits even if you no longer receive an SSI check due to earnings.