

THE PENNSYLVANIA WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE (WIPA) PROGRAM



Social Security's "Ticket to Work"
and Other Work Incentives
Can Help You Return to Work
and Stay Employed

Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choosing to Work

Are you a Social Security beneficiary with a disability who received a Ticket to Work, or who is interested in returning to work?

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act increases your choice in employment services and provides help for you to navigate work rules and regulations. All of these initiatives are designed to help you participate in the workforce and increase your financial self-sufficiency.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers numerous work incentives that can help you transition into employment, including statewide services that can help you identify and use these work incentives!

How to Connect with WIPA

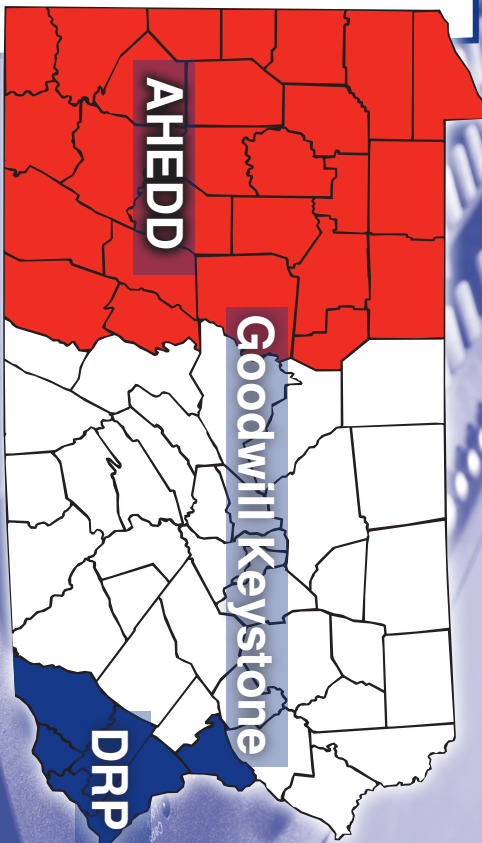
The Social Security Administration has a helpline for beneficiaries. This helpline can assist with general information on work incentives and the Ticket to Work. The helpline can also make direct referrals to your local WIPA. Please contact the beneficiary helpline at **1-866-968-7842 (V)** or **866-833-2967 (TTY)**.



For general questions about Work Incentives, please contact the TTW Helpline at 1-866-968-7842(V) or 866-833-2967 (TTY). Helpline hours: M-F, 8 AM – 8 PM EST.

The helpline can make referrals to one of three providers in PA:

- AHEDD- Western PA & Southern Allegheny Region
- Goodwill Keystone Area- Central and Northeastern PA
- Disability Rights Pennsylvania- Southeastern PA



What is WIPA?

WIPA stands for Work Incentives Planning and Assistance; it's a statewide service designed to help you to understand work incentives available under the SSI and SSDI programs. A WIPA Coordinator can discuss how returning to work will impact your benefits as well as recommend work incentives that can maximize your income and healthcare options as you return to work and achieve greater financial self-sufficiency. The Staff can also help you identify and access appropriate Employment Networks and other employment support services that can help you return to work.



What can WIPA do for you?

A Certified Work Incentive Coordinator can help you:

- To verify all benefits information related to you with explanations of these benefits as needed.
- To understand any past, current or future issues related to your benefits while planning specific strategies for resolving, avoiding or minimizing these problems.
- To identify the potential impact of your earnings goal on all federal, state and local benefits you receive through individualized counseling.

Ticket to Work

WIPA is designed to complement the efforts of beneficiaries who are receiving employment support under Ticket to Work, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and/or another employment source.

SSA's Ticket to Work Program allows you to choose from a list of providers (called Employment Networks) to help you prepare for and obtain a job. Employment Network services might include job training and education,



assistance to identify and obtain assistive technology, and help to secure a job. Employment Networks could include community-based organizations, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and your local CareerLink. The Ticket program is completely voluntary and at no cost to you.

For further information please contact: **1-866-968-7842 (1-866-YOURTICKET) or 1-866-833-2967 TTY (1-866-TDD 2 WORK).** Visit their website for additional information at: www.yourtickettowork.com

Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

The PABSS assists SSA beneficiaries to overcome discrimination and barriers to obtaining work, returning to work, and/or maintaining work. Barriers can include those which impede access to vocational rehabilitation services and reasonable accommodation in the workplace. Additionally, barriers could involve difficulty with securing such services as transportation, school age transition services, Post-Secondary education, competitive and integrated employment support, personal assistance services (PAS) for maintaining employment, and AT acquisition.

For further information, contact PABSS: **Voice (717) 236-8110 or (800) 692-7443 ext 400 TTY (717) 346-0293 or (877) 375-7139**