

WORK INCENTIVE BENEFITS SPECIALISTS

A Work Incentive Benefits Specialist provides information needed for making informed decisions about work. This helps a person understand how earnings may affect disability payments, healthcare, and other publicly funded benefits. For people with a disability, work incentive benefits information is an essential part of getting and keeping a job.

Does benefits advice really help? Find out what the latest research shows by visiting www.perthinkwork.org Search "Work Incentives Research"



Resources & More Information

Nationally

Find information and resources in your area:

<http://www.choosework.net>

Booklet: **Have a Disability? Want to Work? A Work Incentives Benefits Specialist Can Help**

www.perthinkwork.org/resources/item/WorkIncentivesOverview/

Ask your local Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor, school transition counselor, or case manager about connecting with a Work Incentive Benefits Specialist.

In Wisconsin

- Call Employment Resources, Inc. at 1-855-401-8549
- Ask your DVR counselor
- Wisconsin Work Incentives Benefit Specialist Association:
<http://www.wibsa.org>

created by

Wisconsin Disability Benefits Network (WDBN)

web: www.eri-wi.org/wdbn



Employment Resources, Inc.

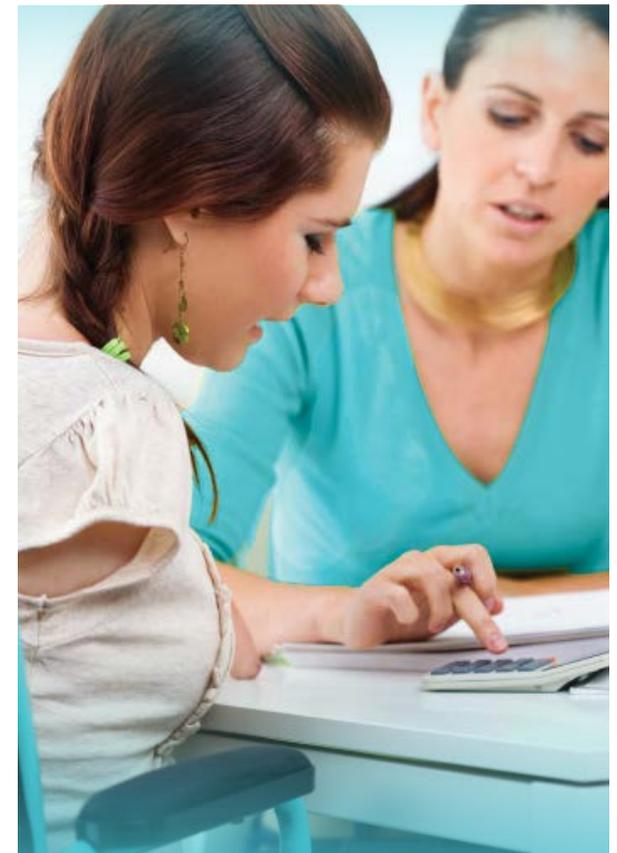
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***Have a Disability? Want to
Work? A Work Incentives Benefits
Specialist Can Help***



"I don't think I would have known what direction to take without the help from the benefits specialist." Ava

BENEFITS & WORK

Many people with a disability want to work, earn more, or start a career. But, one of the biggest obstacles is the fear that doing so will lead to a loss of income or needed public benefits, like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Now, incentives are available that make it possible to earn more while keeping needed benefits.

YOU CAN WORK WITH BENEFITS

What does a Work Incentive Benefits Specialist do?

Many different decisions can be made with help from a Work Incentive Benefits Specialist. These include deciding...

- to work;
- to increase work and earnings;
- to get the training or resources needed for a new career;
- to hold off on such changes for the time being.

It is important to understand the effects of these decisions.

"Knowledge is power" and knowledge about benefits and available work incentives gives people with disabilities the power to make good choices about work and their future.

"My benefits counseling has been mostly problem solving. I was so frustrated that I felt like quitting work. But my benefits counselor got the problem sorted out, and I kept working." John



"You don't have to do it alone. I would never have been able to do it alone...!" Barbara Jo

When should I contact a Benefits Specialist about my work situation?

You should consider contacting a Benefits Specialist about your work situation when:

- Considering working for the first time;
- Considering increasing earnings;
- Considering re-entering the workforce;
- Developing a career plan;
- Actively job seeking;
- Having problems with current benefits.

Work Incentive Benefits Specialists cannot change or get around program rules. But they can help to solve current problems and avoid future problems by communicating with the various benefits programs and agencies such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, County Economic Support, Housing Assistance, Energy Assistance, etc.