

Working for the Future

The Social Security Administration offers special work incentives and safety nets for Transitioning Youths who receive SSI.



Do you know what these incentives are?

1. Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

If you are under age 22, go to school and have a job, SSA does not count all earnings against your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash benefit.

SSA will not count up to \$1,750 of earned income per month when they figure that month's SSI payment. They will do this until you reach the maximum yearly exclusion of \$7,060.

This work incentive can help you set aside more money for school and living expenses.

2. Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS Plan)

A PASS plan allows you to set aside other income besides your SSI and/or resources for a certain period of time. You then spend these funds on expenses related to your work goal. It is expected that reaching this work goal will reduce or eliminate the SSI or SSDI benefits you currently receive. Examples of these expenses could be transportation, tuition, books, tools and certifications.

A PASS can help you establish or maintain SSI eligibility and may increase your SSI payment amount. A PASS has many rules and it is best to contact a Certified Work Incentive Coordinator for help with this.

3. Continued Benefits After Age 18 Redetermination

Disability rules are different for beneficiaries when they reach age 18. When the Social Security Administration (SSA) conducts a continuing disability review (CDR) or an SSI age-18 medical redetermination, it may find that you no longer meet the medical requirements to receive disability benefits.

If that happens, SSA usually stops cash and medical benefits. Under specific conditions, however, SSA may continue to provide cash payments and medical insurance if you are taking part in programs that are helping you to become self-supporting. This includes services from the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).



How to Access a Benefits Counselor

1. Maryland Mental Health Employment Network (MMHEN)*
Phone: 1-855-384-2844
www.ticket2workmd.org

2. Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) consumers
Speak with your assigned DORS counselor.
www.dors.state.md.us

3. Maryland-Work Incentives Network
Phone: 1-888-838-1776
www.md-win.org

4. Full Circle Employment Solutions
Phone: 1-888-466-2942
www.fullcircledc.com

*MMHEN also offers a toll-free telephone line on Mondays from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and on Thursdays from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. to anyone who has benefits questions or concerns. Call 1-855-384-2844.