

We encourage you to call the Idaho WIPA for more detailed information and explanations on how SSDI and SSI work incentives can work for you!

If You Receive SSDI

- (1) [Trial Work Period \(TWP\)](#) This is a 9-month time frame called "service months," when a person receiving SSDI can test their ability to work without losing SSDI cash payments and Medicare coverage. During this time a beneficiary can earn any amount of money as long as the work activity is reported and they continue to have a disabling impairment. After the TWP is completed, the extended period of eligibility begins unless the SSA reviews your disability case and finds your impairment has medically improved.
- (2) [Extended Period of Eligibility \(EPE\)](#) For 36 months/3 years (consecutive), after the Trial Work period is completed, a SSDI beneficiary who continues to be medically disabled can receive a SSDI check for each month they earn below a certain amount. This automatic reinstatement of SSDI benefits does not require a new application, and benefits can be easily reinstated should the beneficiary stop work for any reason.
- (3) [Medicare Continuation](#) Medicare can continue for 93 months after a successful Trial Work Period if the individual continues to be medically disabled.
- (4) [Impairment-Related Work Expense \(IRWE\)](#) IRWEs are documented disability related expenses that are necessary in order to work or perform a job. SSA deducts the cost of IRWEs from gross earnings (earnings before taxes) before determining if the individual is SSDI eligible. Examples of IRWEs may include wheelchairs, assistive technology or any other specialized work-related equipment, and certain special transportation costs.
- (5) [Medical Recovery During Vocational Rehabilitation](#) SSDI eligibility may continue for individual who medically recover from their impairment but are actively participating in a vocational rehabilitation program that will likely lead to self support.

If You Receive SSI

You may still continue to receive Medicaid coverage while trying to become self supporting through work!

- (1) ["Medicaid While Working" 1619\(a\) and 1619\(b\)](#) Offer two different ways an individual can keep Medicaid benefits while trying to become self supporting.
- (2) [Student Earned Income Exclusion \(SEIE\)](#) Allows a student up to age 22 who is disabled or blind and regularly enrolled in school, to earn income that is not counted for SSI income purposes.
- (3) [Plan to Achieve Self Support \(PASS\)](#) A PASS is a plan that a person with a disability or blindness uses to set aside income or resources to reach a work goal. For example, you could set aside money to go to school, start a business or pay for work expenses such as transportation to and from work or attendant care. SSA does not count money set aside under this plan to determine an SSI payment amount.
- (4) [Impairment Related Work Expense \(IRWE\)](#) IRWEs are documented disability related expenses that are necessary in order to work or perform a job. Examples of IRWEs may include wheelchairs, assistive technology or any other specialized work-related equipment, and certain special transportation costs. For SSI beneficiaries, costs of IRWEs can be recovered through higher SSI payments. Additionally, this work incentive can also be used to establish eligibility for initial SSI disability status.
- (5) [Blind Work Expenses \(BWE\)](#) BWEs are documented expenses that individuals with blindness incur because of their disability that are necessary in order to work or perform a job. Examples may include adaptive devices or guide dogs. Like IRWEs, individuals with blindness may be able to recover 100% of those expenses through increased SSI cash payments.

Call Toll Free 1-800-632-5125 (Voice/TDD)