

# WIPA

## Work Incentives Planning and Assistance

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*HOW WORKING IMPACTS SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)*



# What is WIPA?

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- WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING and ASSISTANCE
- **Project Independence** has a Cooperative Agreement with the Social Security Administration to provide WIPA services
- Reasons for the WIPA Program

# Who is Eligible for WIPA Services?

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*Individuals with disabilities age 14 through retirement age who are **currently** receiving one or more of the following based on disability:*

- SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
  - SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)
  - CDB (Childhood Disability Benefits)
  - DWB (Disabled Widow(er) Benefits)
  - **OR** Individuals whose cash benefits have been suspended recently due to earned income
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- **AND** meet one of these criteria:
    - Currently working or self-employed
    - Currently looking for work
    - Seriously considering looking for work

# What are the SSI Work Incentives?

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- General Income Exclusion (GIE)
- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Earned Income Exclusion (EIE)
- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
- ½ Earnings Exclusion (One-for-two offset)
- Blind Work Expenses (BWE)
- Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)
- Medicaid While Working- Section 1619(b)
- Reinstating SSI Eligibility

## *Examples of how WIPA can assist you*

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### **HENRY**

- Receives SSI
- Works Part-time (20 hours per week)
- Earns \$13 per hour
- Earning approximately \$1,125 a month
- He will still receive a small SSI check.

# *Examples of how WIPA can assist you*

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## Jennifer

- Receives SSI
- Works part-time (25 hours per week)
- Earns \$13.00 an hour
- Earning approximately \$1,407 a month
- Lives independently
- Receives \$500 Childhood Disability Benefit (CDB)
- Jennifer reached her Break-Even Point and will no longer receive a cash payment from SSI. However, she is **not terminated** from SSI.

# *Examples of how WIPA can assist you*

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## **Briana**

- Receives SSI
- Works part-time (20 hours per week)
- Earns \$1,039
- Lives at home with her family
- Is a full-time student under age 22
- Still receives her Full SSI check.

# *Examples of how WIPA can assist you*

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## **Janet**

- Receives SSI
- Worked part-time at Ross
- Used a PASS to become a Hair Stylist
- Now works at Fantastic Sam's

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# Achieving a Better Life Experience

*ABLE ACCOUNTS AND SSI*

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# How to access WIPA Services...

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- No referral necessary, just call
- Intake Process
- Consents to release Information
- Privacy Policy
- BPQY
- Other benefits that could be impacted by work (Housing, SSDI etc.)
- BS&A ( Benefits Summary and Analysis)
- Services are ongoing, If your work situation changes.....

# AGAIN....

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**Project Independence's** WIPA SERVICES are available to **ANYONE** who receives a Social Security benefit based on a disability between the ages of 14 & full retirement and lives in Orange County, San Bernardino County, Kern County or Inyo County.

If you or someone you may know is outside of our service area and needs WIPA services, you can call the **Ticket-to-Work** helpline at **1-866-968-7842** to be referred to a WIPA project in your area.

# Where is WIPA?

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- WIPA is located at the **Project Independence** Administrative Office in the City of Costa Mesa.
- Call (714) 549-3464 to speak with a CWIC (Community Work Incentives Coordinator) and/or make an appointment.

# QUESTIONS?

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