Work Incentives Planning Services

Fact Sheet: Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs)

Supplemental Security Income

# What are they?

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs) are items or services that you pay for, that are related to your disability and necessary for work. IRWEs can be used if you are working and receive either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), but it’s important to know that IRWEs work differently for each program.

# How do they work?

When you work and receive SSI, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will adjust your SSI check. The great news is they do not reduce it dollar for dollar. As a general rule, you can expect your SSI to be reduced $1 for every $2 you earn. Because of this, you always come out better financially when you’re working!

IRWEs allow SSA to count even less of your earned income, so your SSI check isn’t reduced as much.

# Why are they important?

When you have approved IRWEs, you may receive an adjusted SSI check even when you’re earning a lot of money!

Examples of items that are often considered IRWEs:

* Medication co-pays
* Medical devices
* Assistive technology
* Costs related to service animals
* Vehicle modifications for accessibility reasons

# Need Help with this Information?

Talk to your Work Incentives Planner (WIP) or another benefits planner for help in determining which SSI work incentives are available to you.

[insert WIP contact info]

[insert WIPA contact info]