



# SSA Benefits Planning & Management Support in California

Benefits Planning and management support in California comes in several ways that include:

<b>WIPA</b>	Work Incentive Planning & Assistance
<b>WIPS</b>	Work Incentive Planners
<b>CWIC</b>	Community Work Incentive Coordinator
<b>AWIC</b>	Area Work Incentives Coordinator (SSA employees)
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Administration Materials
<b>TTW</b>	Ticket-to-Work Program
<b>RC</b>	Regional Center Benefits Planning Support (Not available at all Regional Centers)

## WIPA (Work Incentive Planning & Assistance):

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance is a grant awarded by The Social Security Administration to local organizations to provide work incentive planning services for anyone who is currently receiving cash payments under one or more of the following programs:



• <b>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</b>
• <b>Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)</b>
• <b>Social Security Childhood Disability Benefits (SSCDB) Also known as...Social Security Disabled Adult Child</b>

**AND is either:** Working, looking for work, or thinking about looking for work. All services are free of charge and include...

- ✚ A certified benefits planner can assist you with benefits planning & management
- ✚ Plan for the effect employment may have on your benefits
- ✚ Develop work incentives so you can be successful
- ✚ Coordinate with agencies that help you pay for training or services to return to work

The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program offers individualized work incentives counseling to eligible individuals. The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program is a free service that helps Social Security beneficiaries who receive benefits based on a disability make informed choices about their employment goals.

### **Who is eligible?**

To be eligible to receive WIPA services you must:

- Receive benefits from Social Security based on a disability (SSDI or SSI) or cash benefits were suspended recently due to wages
- Be at least 14 years old
- Not eligible to receive Social Security retirement benefits
- Be employed, self-employed, or looking for work

### **And you are interested in learning more about:**

- How your cash benefit and Medi-CAL or Medicare are affected by income
- How we can help you plan to become financially independent
- How you may be eligible for support in having your own business
- How WIPA services can assist you in reaching your dream job
- Eligibility includes individuals from 14 years to retirement age

The following (6) WIPA programs are approved by the Social Security Administration in California.

**1) Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities**

<https://www.cidsanmateo.org/services/work-incentive-planning-assistance.php>

Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Solano



**2) Disability Resources Agency for independent Living**

<https://drail.org/services/work-incentives-planning-assistance.php>

Serving El Dorado, San Benito, Alpine Amado, Calaveras, Fresno, Kings Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare & Tuolumne.



3) Disability Rights California (DRC)

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/programs/work-incentives-planning-and-assistance>

Serving San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties.



4) Managed Career Solutions, Social Purpose Corporation

<https://www.mcscalifornia.com/wipa/>

Serving Santa Barbara, Ventura, and parts of Los Angeles



5) PRIDE Industries

<https://www.prideindustries.com/our-stories/want-to-work-while-on-ssi-and-ssdi-pride-industries-can-help>

Serving Butte, Colusa Sel Norte, Glenn Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo & Yuba



6) Project Independence

<https://proindependence.org/programs/core-programs/>

Serving all of Orange, San Bernardino, Kern & Inyo Counties.



## WIPS: (Work Incentive Planners)

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)



<https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SswAndTtw>

Work Incentives Planners (WIPs) are available throughout DOR's offices statewide to provide intensive, individualized one-on-one WIP Services to help consumers understand how their social security benefits will be affected if they return to work. Role of the WIP...

- Assist consumers in understanding the impact of employment on cash and health benefits

- Develop accurate and personalized Benefits Analyses and Work Incentive Plans
- Explain and outline viable options
- Provide recommendations on appropriate work incentives
- Promote successful employment outcomes
- Assist with wage reporting and benefits management
- Coordinate referrals to Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects and/or Employment Networks (ENs) at DOR case closure

**Eligibility and Enrollment**

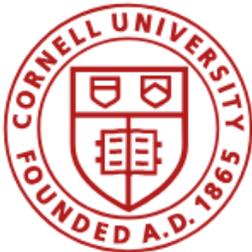
- Current recipients of SSI and/or SSDI; and
- A consumer of DOR who is in Job Ready status
- Intend to obtain competitive employment in an integrated setting above SGA-level earnings; and
- Wish to receive WIP Services through informed choice
- Agree to remain in communication with the WIP throughout the job search process and up to case closure.

**Please call your local Department of Rehabilitation Office for more information.**

**Helpful Links:**

<p><b>Department of Rehabilitation</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SSA">https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SSA</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SSAnewsletter">https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SSAnewsletter</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SSAcalendar">https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/SSAcalendar</a></p> 	<p><b>The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)</b></p> <p>DOR provides website resources specific to Social Security Programs &amp; Disability Benefits Planning. Knowing the facts about work incentives and employment supports will allow you to remain in control of your finances and health care during your transition to work and financial independence. Please see the calendar that includes upcoming Benefits Planning Webinars and access to past webinars. Additionally, Consider subscribing to the DOR Monthly Spotlight on Social Security Newsletter. Past newsletters are also available.</p>
<p><b>Disability Benefits 101</b></p> <p><a href="https://ca.db101.org/">https://ca.db101.org/</a></p>	<p><b>DB101 California</b></p> <p>Many people with disabilities fear that if they go to work, they'll lose needed health care and other disability benefits. Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) helps people with disabilities and service providers understand the connections between work and benefits. DB101 will</p>

<p><b>Disability Benefits 101</b> California</p>	<p>help you make informed choices and show you how you can make work part of your plan.</p>
<p><b>SSI Spotlights</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/links-to-spotlights.htm">https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/links-to-spotlights.htm</a></p> 	<p><b>SSI Spotlights</b> They are (32) handouts to help you when you apply for and receive SSI benefits. SSA wants the public to use the Spotlights. We encourage advocates to give them out to clients and to any other people or groups who can use them. They provide more detailed looks at some of the SSI Programs. Examples of the topics include Wage Reporting, PASS Plan, Impairment Related Work Expenses, ABLE Accounts, and Medicaid Eligibility. Spanish versions are also available. Spanish versions of the spotlights are also available at <a href="#">Puntos Importantes de Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI)</a>.</p>
<p><b>Ticket-to-Work Program</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.ssa.gov/work/">https://www.ssa.gov/work/</a></p> 	<p><b>Ticket-to-Work Program California</b> Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program supports career development for people ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits and want to work. The Ticket Program is free and voluntary. It helps people with disabilities move toward financial independence and connects them with the services and support they need to succeed in the workforce. The <a href="#">Ticket Program</a> is a good fit for people who currently receive Social Security disability benefits, but who want to improve their earning potential and are committed to preparing for long-term success in the workplace. It offers qualified people with disabilities access to meaningful employment with the assistance of authorized employment service providers.</p>
<p><b>Social Security Red Book 2023</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-030.pdf">https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-030.pdf</a></p> 	<p><b>Red Book</b> A Guide to Work Incentives and Employment Supports for People Who have a Disability Under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Programs... The Red Book is a general reference tool designed to provide a working knowledge of the work incentives and employment supports that are available to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. We provide the Red Book primarily for educators, advocates, rehabilitation professionals,</p>

	<p>and counselors who assist people with disabilities. We also expect that applicants and beneficiaries will use it as a self-help guide.</p>
<p><b>Disability Rights California Resources</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/publications">https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/publications</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/events/past-webinars/social-security-ssi">https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/events/past-webinars/social-security-ssi</a></p>  <p><a href="https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/publications/the-pabss-program-protection-advocacy-for-beneficiaries-of-social-security">https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/publications/the-pabss-program-protection-advocacy-for-beneficiaries-of-social-security</a></p>	<p><b>Disability Rights California (DRC)</b> DRC offers downloadable publications on SSI benefits and Social Security and Work. They also have pre-recorded webinars on the topic.</p> <p><b>Protection &amp; Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security</b> The PABSS program can help you with issues such as getting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support Services</li> <li>○ Accommodations at your workplace</li> <li>○ Vocational Rehabilitation</li> </ul> <p>PABSS can also help you with benefits issues that might occur as a result of employment.</p> <p><b>These could include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SSI/SSDI benefits</li> <li>○ Medi-Cal, Medicare</li> <li>○ Work-related Overpayments</li> <li>○ IHSS</li> <li>○ Work Incentives</li> <li>○ Referral to Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Projects (WIPA)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SSI at Work Toolkit</b></p> <p><a href="https://ssi.disabilitybenefitsatwork.org/">https://ssi.disabilitybenefitsatwork.org/</a></p> 	<p><b>SSI at Work Toolkit</b> Developed by Cornell University’s Work Incentive Support Center (WISC) at the K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute (YTI) on Employment and Disability. This toolkit is for individuals with disabilities, families of individuals with disabilities, and professionals to understand Supplemental Security Income rules for working people. It includes information on SSI Eligibility &amp; Appeals, Medical CDRs &amp; Age-18 Redeterminations, Income and Resources, Using SSI Work Incentives, SSI overpayments, and SSI Exclusions for Building Assets</p>