

Working and Paying for Health Care

This fact sheet covers:

- ◆ Medicaid and Medicare
- ◆ Working and health care benefits
- ◆ MED Works—a Medicaid “buy-in” program for people with disabilities who work
- ◆ Employer-sponsored health insurance

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPs AND THEIR FAMILIES

Great news! If you are worried about going to work and losing your health care coverage, there are some work incentives out there to help put your mind at ease.

Work incentives are programs from the Social Security Administration that provide additional supports to people with disabilities who are working.

Extended Period of Medicare Coverage

If you have Medicare (health care insurance provided to people who receive Social Security Disability Insurance) and you go to work, you will be able to keep your Medicare coverage for at least 93 months after you’ve completed your Trial Work Period. (For more information on Trial Work Period, see the fact sheet “Social Security Disability Insurance.”) That’s over 7 years, regardless of how much money you earn. When your Medicare ends is based on when you work your way off of cash benefits, but even after the Extended Period of Medicare Coverage you may still have the option of purchasing Medicare.



Section 1619(b) and Medicaid Coverage

If you have Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid at least one month before you start working, your Medicaid coverage is protected by a Social Security rule known as 1619(b). This allows you to keep your Medicaid coverage even after your earnings are so high that you are no longer getting an SSI check. You can keep your Medicaid and earn up to \$37,010 per year (in 2014).



MED Works

If you are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and do not receive SSI, you may qualify for MED Works. This is a Medicaid buy-in program in Indiana for people with disabilities who work. MED Works allows you to keep your Medicaid (full coverage) when you begin working if you pay a monthly premium that is based on your monthly income. With MED Works you can also save for retirement in an approved account (such as a 401k through your employer), and it won’t count against your Medicaid resource limit!



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Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance



Some jobs offer health insurance to their employees.

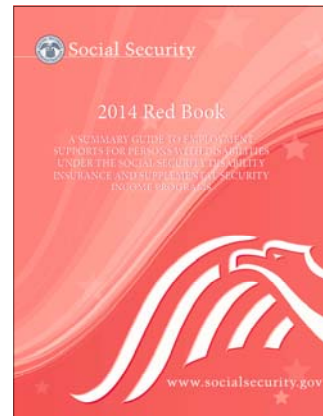
You can take this insurance (there is usually a monthly premium) and still keep your Medicaid and/or Medicare. Some people choose to do this so that their family members who do not have a disability (your spouse and children) will have health insurance. Whatever you pay in premiums for this will decrease the amount you have to pay for MED Works. Here's an example:

\$100	Amount of premium you need to pay for MED Works
—\$100	Amount you pay through payroll deduction for your employer's health insurance premium

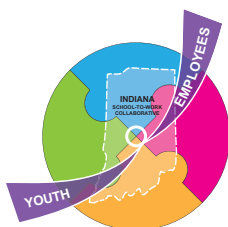
\$0	New MED Works premium

So, in this example, you would not need to pay anything for MED Works, but because you're paying a health care premium at work, you'll be covered through your employer-sponsored plan *and* through MED Works.

Social Security Administration
1-800-772-1213
TTY: 1-800-325-0778
www.ssa.gov



<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook/>



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