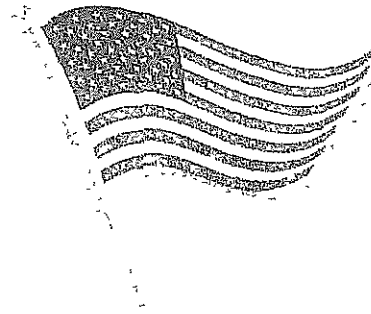


Understanding Social Security's Work Incentives for people receiving disability benefits



Benefit Counseling is available to anyone who wants to understand how to use work incentives while going to work!!!

- Knowing the difference between SSDI & SSI benefits
- Maintaining Medicaid Coverage
- How to report wage earnings
- What would happen to other benefits?

UCP of Metropolitan Detroit is available to meet with you at anytime to further provide information regarding going to work while receiving disability benefits from Social Security.

Paul Landry

plandry@ucpdetroit.org

Director of Employment Programs

Benefits Counselor / CWIC

UCP of Metropolitan Detroit

23077 Greenfield, Suite 205

Southfield, MI 48075

248-557-5070 ext. 113

2019 COLA



Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSDI ——— (FICA)

- Insurance Program based on the individual's work history or of a parent's work history
- No resource limits
- Comes with Medicare after 24 months (Parts A, B, C & D)
- Must apply for _____ through Michigan's Dept. Health & Human Services

SSI ——— No Work History

- Needs based program
- Federal Benefit Rate 2019
- \$771.00 Individual / \$1,151.00 Couple
- Resource Limits
- \$2,000 Individual
- \$3,000 Couple
- Comes with _____ automatically in Michigan through Michigan's Dept. Human Services

➤ *Some individual's who were lower wage earners may receive benefits from both programs at the same time.*

COLA increase for 2019 – All Amounts are Based on Gross Wages		
Quarter of Coverage	2018	2019
Earnings needed to earn one Social Security credit. Up to 4 Quarters per year.	\$1,320	\$1,360

Social Security Disability Insurance (Triggers)		2018	2019
Trial Work Period (TWP)		\$850/Month	\$880/Month
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)	Non-Blind	\$1,180/Month	\$1,220/Month
	Blind	\$1,970/Month	\$2,020/Month

SSI Federal Benefit Rate		2018	2019
Individual		\$750/Month	\$771/Month
Couple		\$1,125/Month	\$1,157/Month
SSI Student Earned Income Exclusion		2018	2019
Monthly Limit		\$1,820	\$1,870
Annual Limit		\$7,350	\$7,550
Medicaid 1619b – Threshold		2018	2019
		\$36,048	36,552

WIPA

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance
2019 Fact Sheet on Work Incentives

How Your SSI Payment Changes with Your Earnings 2019 Fact Sheet on Work Incentives

For more information and support on your work incentives, contact:

UCP of Metropolitan Detroit
800-827-4843

Counties Served: Livingston, Oakland and Wayne

The Arc Michigan
800-292-7851

Counties Served: Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren and Washtenaw

UCP of Michigan
844-633-2413 (Toll Free Number)

Counties Served: Alcona, Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Kalkaska, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau, Lenawee, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft and Wexford

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients can continue to be eligible to receive SSI checks when working if they still have a disability, and meet other requirements such as income and resource limits of \$2,000 for individual / \$3,000 for couple.

When working, the SSI cash will gradually decrease as earnings increase by approximately \$1 for every \$2 earned.

How SSI Formula Works:

Social Security will gradually reduce your SSI check as your earnings from work increase. This is done by applying some exclusions to your income and earnings.

Social Security will first deduct a \$20 General Income Exclusion from your unearned income for the calendar month, if you do not have unearned income, Social Security will deduct the General Income Exclusion from your earnings. Then deduct a \$65 Earned Income Exclusion from your earnings. After applying these exclusions, they will then count half of the remainder of your earnings in calculating your new SSI payment.

For Example:

If you worked 20 hours a week at \$10 per hour at 4.33 weeks in a month. Your monthly gross wages would be \$866.00

$$\$866 - 20 = 846 - 65 = 781 / 2 = 390.50$$

$$\text{Supplemental Security Income of } \$771 - \$390 = \$381.00$$

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Employment	Not Working	\$ 866.00	\$ 866.00	\$ 866.00
2019 Federal Benefit Rate/SSI Payment	\$771.00	\$ 771.00	\$ 771.00	\$ 381.00
Total Income	\$771.00	\$ 1,637.00	\$ 1,637.00	\$1,247.00

Effective date January 1, 2019

WIPA

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance
UCP Detroit • The Arc Michigan • UCP Michigan

Student Earned Income Exclusion for SSI Beneficiaries

For more information and support
on your work incentives, contact:

UCP of Metropolitan Detroit
800-827-4843

Counties Served: Livingston, Oakland
and Wayne

The Arc Michigan
800-292-7851

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Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale,
Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo,
Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw,
St Clair, St Joseph, Sanilac,
Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren and
Washtenaw

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zie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippe-
wa, Clare, Crawford, Delta, Dickin-
son, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic,
Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Houghton,
Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Kalkaska,
Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau,
Lenawee, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee,
Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menom-
inee, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm,
Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo,
Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osce-
ola, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle,
Roscommon, Schoolcraft and Wex-
ford

Effective date: January 1, 2019

How It Helps You:

If you are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and you are under age 22, and regularly attending school, the Social Security Administration (Social Security) will not count up to \$1,860 of earned income (wages) per month while attending school and working. The maximum yearly exclusion is \$ 7,550. These amounts are for the year 2019; they will be adjusted for future years based on the cost-of-living.

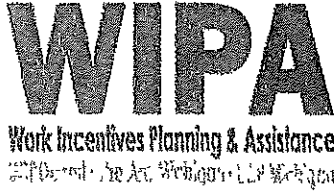
Social Security's definition of "regularly attending school" is:
You take one or more courses of study and attend classes:

- In a college or university for at least 8 hours a week, or
- In grades 7 – 12 for at least 12 hours a week, or
- In a training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice), or
- For less time indicated above for reasons beyond the student's control, such as illness
- Note if you are home schooled because of a disability, you may be considered "regularly attending school" by:
 - Studying a course or courses given by a school (grades 7 – 12), college, university or government agency, or
 - Having a home visitor or tutor who directs the study

How It Works:

1. If you receive SSI and you start working, you must report your earnings to Social Security. You can do this by calling or visiting your local Social Security Office and talking to an SSI Claims Representative at your local Social Security office.
2. If you meet the qualifications described above, ask the Social Security Claims Representative if you are eligible for the Student Earned Income Exclusion.
3. If so, you can earn up to \$ 1,860 in a month and your SSI benefits will not be reduced. If your earnings for the year reach \$ 7,550; part of your earnings will then begin to affect your SSI benefits.
4. Social Security also uses a countable income formula in calculating SSI checks. After the Student Earned Income Exclusion is deducted, Social Security will also deduct a \$20 General Income Exclusion and a \$65 Earned Income Exclusion. Following these exclusions, they will count \$1 for every \$2 that you earn when they calculate the amount of your new SSI payment

A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand the Student Earned Income Exclusion and the Countable Income Formula that Social Security uses to calculate your new SSI payment.



Reporting your wages to Social Security for the SSI program:

For more information and support
on your work
incentives, contact:

U C P of Metropolitan Detroit
1-800-827-4343 / (248) 557-5070
Counties Served: Livingston,
Oakland, Wayne

U C P of Michigan
1-800-828-2714

Counties Served: Alcona, Alger,
Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga,
Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan,
Chippewa, Clate, Crawford, Del-
ta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gladwin,
Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot,
Houghton, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isa-
bella, Kalkaska, Kent, Keweenaw,
Lake, Leelanau, Lenawee, Luce,
MacLainac, Manistee, Marquette,
Mason, Me-costa, Menominee,
Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm,
Montmorency, Muskegon,
Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, On-
tonagon, Osceola, Otsego, Otta-
wa, Presque Isle, Roscommon,
Schoolcraft and Wexford

The Arc Michigan
1-800-292-7851

Counties Served: Allegan, Barry,
Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass,
Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale,
Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo,
Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw,
St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac,
Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren,
Washtenaw

Social Security needs you to submit any checks stubs that you re-
ceived during the month at the beginning of the next month. This is
to avoid any overpayment issues.

Social Security may send you a Work Activity Report on a yearly basis
to verify your current earnings for the year. When you receive this
form, and if you need assistance in filling out the paperwork, please
feel free to call me.

Continue to notify your Social Security office of all earnings to avoid
an overpayment.

***Please direct any issues and wage earnings to the SSI Unit within
your local Social Security Office

Mail to your local Social Security Office:

ATTN: SSI UNIT

**Social Security Administration – Local Office
Address**

You may also report your GROSS WAGES by:

1. Calling SSA's Wage Reporting Hotline 866-772-0953
2. Using SSA's SSI Wage Reporting app. on your cellphone
3. You may also report your wages online by setting up an
account through Social Security Administration website at

www.ssa.gov

WIPA

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance
UCP Detroit • The Arc Michigan • UCP Michigan

Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits (EXR)

For SSDI and SSI Beneficiaries

2019 Fact Sheet on Work Incentives

How It Helps You:

For more information and support on your work incentives, contact

UCP of Metropolitan Detroit
800-827-4843

Counties Served: Livingston, Oakland and Wayne

The Arc Michigan
800-292-7851

Counties Served: Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren and Washtenaw

UCP of Michigan
844-633-2413 (Toll Free Number)

Counties Served: Alcona, Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clara, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Kalkaska, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau, Lenawee, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Menominee, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Osceola, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft and Wexford

Effective date: January 1, 2019

If the Social Security Administration has closed your case because of work activity, and you now find you are unable to work again, the Social Security Administration has a 60 month safety net available. With this safety net, you may begin to receive your cash benefit again by completing a short application with the Social Security Administration.

How It Works:

You may request an Expedited Reinstatement of benefits within five years (60 months) after your benefits are terminated due to work activity. You will be eligible for 6 months of provisional benefits (including Medicare and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage with a premium) while the Social Security Administration is reviewing the continuation of your original disability.

If the Social Security Administration determines that your medical condition does not prevent you from working, the six months of provisional benefits will not be considered as an overpayment. To qualify for this provision, you must meet the following criteria:

Applies for both SSI and SSDI benefits:

- are currently unable to earn over SGA due to your disability;
- have the same disability as when you applied initially; and,
- make the request for reinstatement within 60 months (5 years) from the month SSA terminated the previous benefits.

Applies to SSDI only.

- stopped receiving SSDI due to earnings from work;
- are no longer earning more than the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level (in 2019, \$1,220 per month for people with disabilities or \$2,020 per month for blind beneficiaries);

After you have received 24 months of payments, you may be eligible for a new Trial Work Period and a new Extended Period of Eligibility, if you begin working again and cannot earn above the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level (in 2019 the SGA level is \$1,220 in gross countable earnings, or \$2,020 for blind individuals).

In some circumstances, it may be more advantageous to file a new application for benefits rather than apply for EXR. A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand more about Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits.

The information contained in this fact sheet has been reviewed by the Social Security Administration for accuracy. However, the viewpoints expressed in this fact sheet do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the Social Security Administration. "This communication is printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense."



Work Incentives Planning & Assistance
For SSI Beneficiaries

1619b Continued Medicaid

For SSI Beneficiaries

For more information and support on your work incentives, contact

UCP of Metropolitan Detroit
1-800-827-4843 / (248) 557-5070
Counties Served: Livingston, Oakland, Wayne

UCP of Michigan
1-800-828-2714
Counties Served: Alcona, Algier, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Crawford, Del-ta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Kalkaska, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau, Lenawee, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Me-costa, Menominee, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Os-ceola, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft and Wexford

The Arc Michigan
1-800-292-7851
Counties Served: Allegan, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw, St Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw

Effective Date: January 2019

How It Helps You:

If you are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have Medicaid for your health insurance and are employed, 1619b allows you to work and to keep Medicaid coverage without a Medicaid spend-down. You can continue to be eligible for Medicaid coverage until your gross annual income reaches a certain amount (this amount is \$36,552 in 2019). Exceptions to this work incentive are if you no longer need Medicaid, or if you accumulate more than \$2,000 in resources as an individual or \$3,000 as a couple (this is currently Michigan's Medicaid resource limit).

How It Works:

While you are earning income from work, if you have a disability or are blind, if you need Medicaid in order to work, if you are unable to afford medical coverage, and you meet all other requirements (such as less than \$2,000 in resources), you are eligible for 1619b Medicaid protection.

You should report your earnings to the Social Security Administration (Social Security) monthly. At the time that your SSI cash payments stop due to reaching the Break Even Point (the point when your earnings cause your SSI check to go to zero), Social Security will automatically determine eligibility for 1619b, and inform you of your eligibility for this Medicaid protection.

This information will be sent electronically to the local office of the Department of Human Services (DHS). However, you should also report your earnings to the caseworker at the DHS, and inquire about your eligibility for Section 1619b Medicaid continuation when you no longer receive an SSI check due to your earnings.

With 1619b you may still remain eligible for SSI, even though your check has stopped. If you begin earning less than the Break Even Point or are not working again, your SSI check will start again. It is very important to always report your earnings to Social Security each month to have your check adjusted accurately.

A trained Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you in understanding the conditions to continue with Medicaid coverage under Section 1619b.

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Work Incentives Planning & Assistance

Freedom to Work Medicaid (FTW) for SSDI & SSI Beneficiaries April 2019 - March 2020 (DHS Policy DEM 174 Effective October 2015)

To qualify for Freedom to Work:

For more information and support on your work incentives, contact

ICP at Metropolitan Detroit 1-800-827-1843 / (248) 557-5979 Counties Served: Livingston Oakland Wayne

ICP at Michigan 1-800-828-2714

Counties Served:

Counties Served: Alaska, Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clatsop, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Isabella, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kent, Keweenaw, Lake, Leelanau, Leelanau, Lapeer, Leelanau, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Meromunster, Midland, Muskegon, Montcalm, Mountrancy, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Oshtemo, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft and Wexford

The Arc Michigan 1-800-922-7851

Counties Served: Allegan, Barry, Ben, Branch, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Emmet, Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Washtenaw, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw

Effective April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

Your assets need to be under the Medicare Savings Program limit which in 2019 is \$7,730 + \$1,500 burial expenses of countable assets. The asset limit may adjust annually effective January 1st of each year if there's an adjustment with Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).

This means that you can have more than \$2,000 in assets while maintaining your Medicaid while you are employed.

**Countable Assets/Income refers to a calculation that is computed by looking at both your unearned and earned income to a lesser amount.

Paying the Premium:

The premium for an enrolled individual shall generally be assessed on an annual basis or other evidence of earned income and shall be payable on a monthly basis. The premium shall be adjusted during the year when an enrolled individual's rate of annual income changes.

There will be no premium for individuals with a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) less than 138% (\$1,436.58 for 2019) of the Federal Poverty Level for a group of one.

A monthly premium of 2.5% of MAGI income will be assessed for individuals who have a total MAGI between 138% of the Federal Poverty Level and \$75,000 annual MAGI income.

***Which means, if your MAGI is calculated to \$1,500 then your monthly premium for your Medicaid would be \$37.50 per month.

A premium of 100% of the average Freedom to Work Program participant cost will be assessed for an enrolled individual with a MAGI over \$75,000 annually.

Failure to pay premiums will result in loss of Medicaid coverage under the Freedom to Work Program.

Without losing eligibility for Medicaid, an individual who qualifies for and is enrolled under the Freedom to Work program is permitted to do all of the following:

- (a) Accumulate personal savings and countable assets not to exceed \$75,000.00.
(b) Accumulate unlimited retirement and individual retirement accounts with income from employment while enrolled in the freedom to work for individuals with disabilities program. Assets described in this subdivision shall remain excluded from eligibility consideration for other Medicaid programs for the individual even if he or she loses eligibility under this section.
(c) Have temporary breaks in employment that do not exceed 24 months if the temporary breaks are the result of an involuntary layoff or are determined to be medically necessary or for relocation necessary due to employment in this state.

This program is made possible by a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of Social Security or Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This communication is prepared, published or produced and disseminated at the program's expense.