

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

Ticket to Work Helpline

For general questions about work incentives call the Ticket to Work Helpline at 1-886-833-2987 or TTY call 1-866-833-2967 M-F 8:00 AM -8:00 PM EST M-F

Project Independence

Melissa Melendez, Community Work Incentives Coordinator

If you would like more specific information about work incentives, are currently receiving WIPA services or have been previously served by a WIPA project call the number below.

Phone: (714) 549-3464 x235
Fax: (888) 343-3109
Email: mmelendez@proindependence.org

This document is funded through a Social Security cooperative agreement. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security communication



3505 Cadillac Ave., Suite O-103
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

www.proindependence.org



WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE (WIPA)

Making informed choices about going to work



WHAT IS WIPA?

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) is a cooperative agreement through Social Security Administration (SSA) with local agencies to provide work incentives information and planning services for individuals:

- 1 Who are either currently receiving some type of disability benefit from SSA, or
- 2 Whose cash benefits have been recently suspended due to earned income, but are still eligible for Medi-Cal and/or Medicare benefits

WHAT ARE WORK INCENTIVES?

Work Incentives are special rules that make it possible for people with disabilities receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to work and still receive monthly payments and Medicare or Medi-Cal.



OUR SERVICES

Our Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC) meet with each beneficiary either by phone or in person and then research each client's unique situation. We provide the best customized assessment of the available work incentives. Project Independence has been providing these services since 2001. Project Independence assists hundreds of beneficiaries every year in understanding how wages and work incentives can affect their benefits.

Our Community Work Incentives Coordinators will:

- ♥ Explain how work and earned income may affect your cash and medical benefits.
- ♥ Explain all aspects of available work incentives, some of which are automatic while others need to be initiated.
- ♥ Give information about the Ticket to Work Program, it's benefits and how to choose an Employment Network.
- ♥ Give information about the PASS Program (Plan to Achieve Self Support) and guide beneficiaries through the application process.
- ♥ Refer beneficiaries to various community resources as needed to address areas of concern outside the scope of the WIPA Project.

All services are free of charge! There is never a cost for any of the services provided under the WIPA project.