



How Can Work Incentives Help You Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid While Working?

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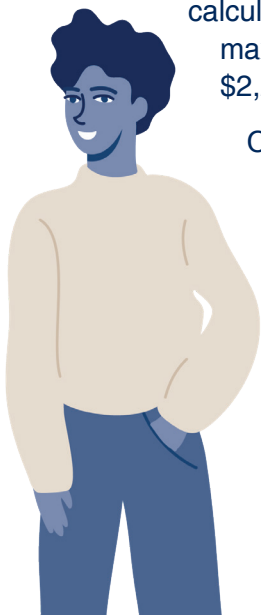
- Some work incentives allow us to exclude a portion of your income or resources when we determine your eligibility for SSI.
- Other work incentives let you continue to receive Medicaid coverage after you stop receiving SSI.

You may take advantage of more than one work incentive. The amount of income we may not count and the amount of your SSI will change with the types and amounts of your other income each month. It is important for you to tell us when your income changes, and for you to know the amount of your income we can set aside.

Work Incentive Examples

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

The Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) allows a person under age 22 and regularly attending school to have earnings excluded from their income before calculating an SSI payment. In 2024, the maximum monthly amount of SEIE is \$2,290 and the yearly limit is \$9,230.



Chayton is a student on summer break who works at a local recreation center earning \$2,290 a month in June, July, and August of 2024. In September, Chayton will return to school but will continue working part-time earning \$1,180 per month from September through December 2024.

Applying the SEIE, we can exclude all of Chayton’s summer earnings (June, July, and August), a total of \$6,870.

We can also exclude all Chayton’s earnings for September and October, a total of \$2,360. Through October, we can exclude all \$9,230 (\$6,870 + \$2,360) in earnings, the yearly SEIE maximum for 2024. So, Chayton will receive their entire SSI payment from June through October, even though they will be working. Chayton’s payment for November and December will be adjusted monthly, considering their earnings for these months.

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)

Asia receives SSI payments and is self-employed. With earnings that vary each month, the money from their employment is the only income they receive. In a typical month, Asia earns \$1,025 selling photographs in a local Art Co-op. Asia uses a motorized wheelchair and a special transportation service to get to and from the Art Co-op due to their disability.

In 2024, their monthly work expenses were:

- \$250 a month for Art Co-Op dues and insurance.
- \$100 a month in printing costs.
- \$250 a month for a special transportation service.

Asia has work expenses of \$600 a month. However, only \$250 of their earnings are used to pay for the special transportation service related to their impairment. We do not count the costs for the special transportation in determining the amount of their SSI payment as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \$1,025 - \$20 \text{ (general exclusion)} = \$1,005 \\
 & \$1,005 - \$65 \text{ (earned income exclusion)} = \$940 \\
 & \$940 - \$250 \\
 & \text{(IRWE)} = \$690 \\
 & \$690 / 2 = \$345 \\
 & \$345 = \text{countable earnings}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note: The cost of public transportation is not typically an IRWE. Also, be mindful that the earnings of people who are self-employed vary monthly. It is

important to report the money you earn from wages or self-employment. We will work with you to apply the special earning rules for self-employment.

Plan To Achieve Self-Support (PASS)

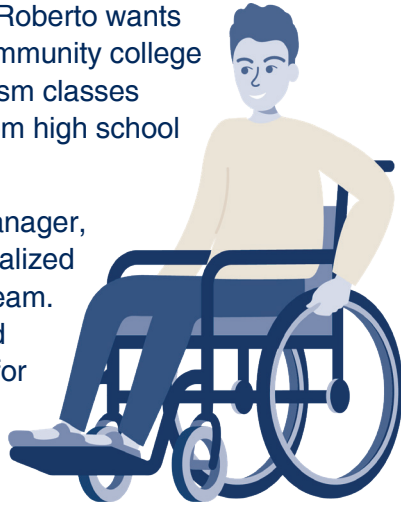
Roberto has cerebral palsy and receives SSI. At 17, they started working on the weekends and during the summer months as an assistant to a writer for an online tech magazine. Roberto wants to enroll in the local community college and take some journalism classes when they graduate from high school in June.

Roberto has a case manager, who is on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team.

This case manager told them they could apply for a PASS to help them set money aside for their education. The case manager connected Roberto with a benefits counselor at the local Work Incentives, Planning, and Assistance (WIPA project). The benefits counselor helped Roberto write the PASS and submit the plan to the local Social Security PASS Specialist. The plan must be approved by Social Security.

Roberto's work goal is to become a journalist for a tech magazine. Through PASS, they will set aside \$50 each paycheck from now until next fall.

That money will pay for two journalism classes at the community college in their first semester. By getting an associate degree, Roberto can apply for full time journalist vacancies in the online tech magazine industry and earn more money. It is unlikely that this plan will be approved without additional information about how Roberto intends to fund the rest of their education.



We will not count the money Roberto sets aside each month for their PASS as income when determining their SSI payment. We will also exclude the money in their PASS savings account from their resource limit. They will need to track their savings for the PASS in a separate bank account and keep the payment receipts for their classes. We will ask to see proof of Roberto's deposits into their PASS savings account and the receipts for the classes. For more information about work incentives, visit our website at www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/workincentives.htm and www.ssa.gov/redbook.

You can find additional information and resources to make a successful transition to adulthood at www.ssa.gov/youth/



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