

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

As authorized by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, Social Security awarded and currently maintains cooperative agreements with community-based organizations to provide all Social Security disability beneficiaries (including transition-to-work aged youth) with access to benefits planning and assistance. WIPA services are available in every state, the District of Columbia, and the US Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The goal of the WIPA program is to better enable Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities to make informed choices about work.

Each WIPA project has Community Work Incentives Coordinators who:

- Provide work incentives planning and assistance to our beneficiaries with disabilities;
- Conduct outreach efforts to those beneficiaries (and their families) who are potentially eligible to participate in Federal or state work incentives programs; and
- Work in cooperation with Federal, state, and private agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve beneficiaries with disabilities.

These services are free to individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income benefits based on disability. If you want to locate the WIPA project nearest you, please call 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD) for the hearing impaired. You can also find a list with contact information on our web site at:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/ServiceProviders/WIPADirectory.html>.

Protection and Advocacy

In every state and U.S. Territory, an agency protects the rights of individuals with disabilities. This system, known as the Protection and Advocacy System, administers the SSA-funded Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. Each PABSS project can:

- Investigate any complaint you have against an employment network or other service provider that is helping you return to work;
- Give you information and advice about vocational rehabilitation and employment services;
- Tell you about SSA's work incentives that will help you return to work;
- Provide consultation and legal representation to protect your rights in the effort to secure or regain employment; and
- Help you with problems concerning your individual work plan under the Ticket to Work program.

These services are free to individuals receiving SSDI or SSI benefits based on disability or blindness. If you want to locate the PABSS project nearest you, please call 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD) for the deaf and hearing impaired. You can also find a list with contact information at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/ServiceProviders/PADirectory.html>.

Employer Assistance Referral Network (EARN)

The Employer Assistance Referral Network (EARN) is a free national employment referral service for employers. EARN is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, with additional support from the Social Security Administration.

EARN is designed to assist employers with recruitment and informational resources that will connect them to *Employment Service Providers* who have access to job-ready candidates in their community. EARN works with Employment Service Providers and/or Employment Networks to increase exposure in the employer community and expand job placement opportunities.

The enrollment process is simple. Once an organization is enrolled in EARN, it is eligible to receive job vacancy announcements from employers in your community who are also enrolled with EARN.

Learn more about how EARN will benefit both organizations and the job candidates with disabilities that organizations are looking to place. Employers and organizations, contact EARN at:

Toll Free Hotline: 1-866-Earn Now or 1-866-327-6669 (Voice/TTY)
9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday - Friday

Web Site: <http://www.earnworks.com>