Work Incentives Benefits Counseling in Wisconsin

Presented by:
Amber Kwiatkowski
Work Incentives Benefit Specialist
Many individuals believe that they can’t work because they will lose important benefits such as health insurance.
Each person’s benefit situation is different.

A Benefits Specialist Can Help!
Social Security Disability Insurance

SSDI

- Based on own work record, or
- Record of a parent who is:
  - Disabled, Retired, Deceased
- No asset limit

Supplemental Security Income

SSI

- Needs based
- Limit to amount received; $914 (2023)
- Income & asset limits
- Automatic Medicaid
Medicare vs. Medicaid
A Comparison

Health Benefits

Medicare
• Not as comprehensive
• May have more costs
• Parts A, B, D
• SSDI recipients eligible after two years
• Medicare Savings Plans (MSP) and LIS (part D extra help)

Medicaid
• Comprehensive coverage
• Different programs/types
• Each has own income and asset limits
• Some have premiums or cost shares
• Provide accurate information about how working will affect cash payments, health insurance, housing, and any other benefits a person receives. Provide a written Benefits Summary and Analysis Report.
• Educate beneficiaries about the work incentives available and how to utilize them.
• Assist with understanding wage reporting requirements and how to report earnings.
Work Incentives Benefits Specialists

• Assist with overpayments issues and options for resolving them.
• Refer to other agencies, programs, services when needed.
• Make informed choices about work.
• Reduce fear and misunderstanding.
• Improve communication between agencies and beneficiaries.
• Resolve work-related benefit problems.
Funding available through three sources:

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**
Contact DVR Counselor to authorize service

**Long-Term Care: Family Care/IRIS**
Contact Care Manager or IRIS Consultant

**Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grant from Social Security Administration**
Contact WI WIPA: Employment Resources
When Should an Individual Contact a Work Incentive Benefits Specialist?

If they are...

- Considering work for the first time.
- Making more money.
- Going back to work.
- Developing a career plan.
- Looking for a job.
- Having problems or questions about current benefits.
It is possible to work and keep important benefits.

A Benefits Specialist Can Help!
Questions
THANK YOU!

Presented by:
Amber Kwiatkowski | kwiatkowski@eri-wi.org | www.eri-wi.org
Sauk Prairie Schools: Beyond 18 Options and Employment

Transition Talk Tuesdays
10/17/2023
Liz Kennedy, Transition Coordinator, SPSD
Special Guest:
Amber Kwiatkowski from ERI, Inc.
How Sauk Prairie School District can help with this process...

Transition Coordinator will:

- assist families in referring to the ADRC at 17.6 (see 09/26 TTT webinar for info on ADRC)
- coordinate with any outside agencies with whom you may be collaborating, refer you to the experts :)
- share website links, brochures and information
- assist in referral to DVR (benefits analysis)
- Wisconsin Transition Resource Guides - available in Spanish and English
- help you plan through the PostSecondary Transition Plan (PTP) for the steps you need to take in this process
- Can provide copies of Opening Doors publications (Spanish and English)

Links

Ticket to Work:

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/programs/social-security/understanding-ttw.htm

PASS:

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/programs/social-security/pass.htm

Benefits Counseling:

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/benefit-specialists/index.htm

Benefits Analysis can be part of your IPE through DVR, or LTS

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative: (English and Spanish)

https://wspei.org/transition/getting-started/
ONE More Transition Talk Tuesday
Coming up...

Transition Tuesdays

9/19-10/24

- Sauk Prairie Transition: PTP, Post secondary education planning, financial aid discussion with college reps
- The ADRC, Long Term Supports and SSI application
- Guardianship and supported decision making - The continuum of support options
- Healthcare for people with disabilities
- Working while on social security, Ticket to Work, PASS program, Benefits Analysis
- Sauk Prairie Beyond 18 programs and employment
How to sign up for the other TTT sessions…

Here is the link for families to sign up:
Registration -- https://go.wisc.edu/RegTTTSauk
Website -- https://go.wisc.edu/TTTSauk

Todas las charlas se interpretarán simultáneamente al español.
Para descargar un folleto en español. flyer
También está disponible una página de inscripción en español. https://go.wisc.edu/9g3174

All talks will be simultaneously interpreted into Spanish.
A registration site in Spanish is also available. https://go.wisc.edu/9g3174

Families can register online and we will also be offering in-person for those who do not have access to technology outside of school. I have reserved the BOE room for each of the evenings at 440 13th Street, Prairie du Sac, 53578

We had one virtual Transition Talk about Special Needs Trusts. You can access that at the website to watch at any time.
Questions and Contact Information

Liz Kennedy
Transition Coordinator
Sauk Prairie School District
liz.kennedy@saukprairieschools.org
608.644-2863 * new number

Questions and special thanks to Tim Markle, Amber and our Spanish interpreters!