

The Social Security Administration has released the 2006 edition of what many people simply call the "Red Book," which is a summary guide to employment support for individuals with disabilities under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplementary Security Income (SSI) programs. You are strongly encouraged to get this information into the hands of every adult with a disability who currently receives benefits under these programs and who wishes either to join or rejoin the workforce. The Red Book contains useful information that will assist these folks in knowing how to go to or return to work in such a way that helps maximize economic self-sufficiency. This publication may be an empowering and invaluable tool to enable people with disabilities to enter the world of employment as part of their overall life approach of fulfilling career dreams and aspirations and striving to reach their greatest potential as they continually seek to enhance their own economic productivity.

Here is what the Red Book contains:

INTRODUCTION

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2006

- * Amount Adjustments for 2006

RECENT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- * The Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative
- * Work Opportunity Demonstration Projects
- * Spotlight on Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) and Medicaid

While Working

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORK INCENTIVES

- * Area Work Incentive Coordinator (AWIC)
- * Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) Cadre
- * How to Reach Social Security
- * Send Us Comments about the Red Book
- * Request Public Information Materials
- * Other Sources of Information
- * Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach (BPAO) Program
- * Protection and Advocacy
- * Employer Assistance Referral Network

BASIC SSDI AND SSI INFORMATION

- * What Are SSDI And SSI?
- * Are You Eligible?
- * When and How Do You File for Benefits?
- * What Records Do You Need?
- * How Do We Define Disability?
- * What if You Are Self-Employed?
- * How Do We Decide if You Are Disabled?
- * Who Decides if You Are Disabled?

- * What Are Your Responsibilities When You Work?
- * How Do We Figure Your Payment Amount?
- * Will You Get Health Insurance Coverage?
- * Will You Have to Wait For Benefits to Start?
- * When Will We Review Your Disability?
- * When Will Your Benefits Stop?
- * Can You Get Benefits Again if Your Benefits Ended Because of Work?

OVERVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * How Does Employment Support Help Individuals?

SSDI/SSI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * Ticket to Work Program
- * Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
- * Subsidy And Special Conditions
- * Unincurred Business Expenses
- * Unsuccessful Work Attempt
- * Continued Payments under a Vocational Rehabilitation Program (aka Section 301)
- * Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)

SSDI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * Trial Work Period (TWP)
- * Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- * Continuation of Medicare Coverage
- * Medicare for Individuals with Disabilities Who Work

SSI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * Earned Income Exclusion
- * Student Earned Income Exclusion
- * Property Essential to Self-Support
- * Special SSI Payments for Individuals Who Work - Section 1619(a)
- * Medicaid While Working - Section 1619(b)
- * State Threshold Amounts
- * Special Benefits for Individuals Eligible Under Section 1619 (a) or (b) Who Enter a Medical Treatment Facility
- * Reinstating Eligibility without a New Application

SPECIAL RULES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

- * How SGA Is Applied Under SSDI to Individuals Who Are Blind
- * How SGA Is Not Applied Under SSI to Individuals Who Are Blind
- * Blind Work Expenses (BWE) Under SSI

EXAMPLE OF CONCURRENT BENEFITS AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

ADDITIONAL HELP WITH HEALTH CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

- * Medicaid Protection for Working Individuals with Disabilities
- * Help with Medicare Part A Premiums

GLOSSARY 62

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADDRESSES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REGIONAL OFFICES

Online versions are available both in PDF and HTML formats. To view a copy online and to download it for your use, please visit:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/redbook.htm>

To reach the Social Security Administration by phone to obtain the Red Book, which is also available in alternative formats, you may call (800) 772-1213 [Voice] or (800) 325-0778 [TTY].