



## What Happens to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) when you work?

(See [www.ssa.gov/redbook](http://www.ssa.gov/redbook) for more detailed explanations)

SSA counts all forms of income when determining how much your SSI check will be. You are currently eligible for \$755.10 in 2017 combined Federal Benefit Rate and State Supplementary Payment Program. Your cash benefit is gradually reduced based upon gross earnings, less Work Incentives. When earnings are counted, there is first a general income exclusion of \$20.00 and an earned income exclusion of \$65 and then divided by 2. Countable earned income is subtracted from \$755.10 month to determine your SSI payment.

### Work Incentives that are also available

**Continuation of SSI** – Working SSI recipients who are blind or disabled may continue to receive payments until countable income exceeds SSI limits.

**Continuation of Medicaid Eligibility** – Medicaid may continue for SSI recipients who are blind or disabled and earn over the SSI limits if they cannot afford similar medical care and depend on Medicaid in order to work. Under 1619b, you may continue to receive your Medicaid while working earning up to \$36,567.00 per year in 2017.

- **Impairment Related Work Expenses** – Certain expenses for things a person with a disability needs because of his/her impairment in order to work may be deducted when counting earnings.
- **Plan for Achieving Self Support** – An SSI recipient who is blind or disabled may set aside income and resources toward an approved plan for achieving self support (PASS).
- **Students with Disabilities** – A student under the age of 22 may exclude in 2018 up to \$1,820.00 of earnings a month / \$7,350.00 per year 2018.
- **Blind Work Expenses** - Earned income that a blind individual uses to meet the expenses of working does not count when SSA determine SSI eligibility and payment amount. The expenses do not need to be related to blindness and include earned income used to pay income taxes; meals consumed during work hours, transportation costs or guide dog expenses

**Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)** - EXR is a safety net for people who successfully return to work and lose their entitlement to SSDI or SSI benefits and payments. If your cash payments ended because of your work and earnings, and you stop work within 5 years of when your benefits ended, we may be able to start your benefits again.

### **Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities**

You also have the option of purchasing Medicaid under a program known as MAWD (Medical Assistance for Workers with Disability) should your earnings exceed standard SSI/Medicaid thresholds, or you save between \$2000 and \$10,000 in countable resources.

**Ticket to Work** -. The "Ticket to Work" is a specialized work incentive. It is intended for anyone ages 18-64 receiving SSI and/or SSDI who is interested and capable of working

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