

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

A Project of the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania

Assisting Social Security Beneficiaries with return-to-work issues and employment barriers

You are eligible for PABSS services if:

You are a Pennsylvanian with a disability who receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and

1. You need information about how working or increasing your work-related earnings will affect your benefits, or
2. You are having trouble getting the vocational rehabilitation or other employment-related services and supports you need in order to work including concerns you may have with your employer about reasonable accommodations, or
3. You are experiencing a barrier to employment. Barriers to employment may also include accommodation at the workplace, need for assistive, technology, transportation issues, health related issues, and discrimination.

If you are eligible for our assistance, PABSS can:

- Provide information about the programs, services and supports available to help you work
- Provide information about the numerous work incentives that may be helpful in your efforts to get meaningful work
- Refer you to professionals who can explain how working or increasing your work-related earnings will affect your benefits and help you plan for the future
- Assist you if you encounter problems in getting the services and supports you need to gain or continue work.
- Advocate on your behalf to resolve any conflicts you may have with service providers or employers as you seek to gain or continue work.
- Identify and correct systemic barriers that impede access to vocational and rehabilitation services; and barriers to employment and support services necessary to facilitate entry or reentry to the workplace

What is PABSS? Protection & Advocacy of Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) was established under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-170). The express purposes of the Act are: to provide health care and employment preparation and placement services to individuals with disabilities; to encourage States to expand Medicaid availability to workers with disabilities; to expand Medicare availability to workers with disabilities; and to obtain necessary services and supports to obtain and retain employment and reduce dependency on cash benefits.

PABSS, which is funded by a grant from the Social Security Administration (SSA), is responsible for protecting the rights of SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients who wish to gain or continue work. PABSS is part of Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania, a statewide non-profit organization that has been advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities since 1977. The services are free to all eligible individuals.

Do you receive SSDI/SSI benefits, have trouble returning to work/continuing employment, and need legal or advocacy assistance? We may be able to help you! Contact Us:

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania, Intake Department
1414 North Cameron Street, Suite C
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103
(717) 236-8110 or (800) 692-7443 (V)
(717) 346-0293 or (877) 375-7139 (TTY)
FAX 717-236-0192
drnpa@drnpa.org www.drnpa.org

For more information about the Ticket to Work:

- The Social Security Administration has information about the Ticket on their website at www.ssa.gov/work. Staff can be contacted at 1-800-772-1213 or 1-800-325-0778 (TTY).
- MAXIMUS has information about the Ticket on their website at www.yourtickettowork.com. Staff can be contacted at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).

If you wish more information about the impact of earned income on SSA cash benefits and related health care and about work incentives, the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects can provide free advice. In Pennsylvania, there are three organizations that provide these services.

1. AHEDD, 3300 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011, 866-627-8610,
Service Counties: Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, MeKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren.
866-802-4333: Armstrong, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland.
866-302-4333: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler.
866-889-4281: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Somerset.
2. Goodwill Industries of Central PA, Inc., 1150 Goodwill Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 866-541-7005,
Service Counties: Adams, Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Porter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York
3. Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania, Transition to Employment Project, 1414 N. Cameron Street, Suite C, Harrisburg, PA 17103, 800-692-7443 ext. 309, Service Counties: Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania uses Language Line as an interpreter services for persons who are non-English speaking. When you call DRN, the person answering the phone may not speak your language. Please, state the language that you speak and wait a few minutes until you can be transferred to an interpreter. You will hear music in the background until the interpreter is connected.

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