

The image features two thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

# BENEFITS & GOING TO WORK

# Objectives:

- The impact of earned income on SSDI/SSI and other public benefit programs
- Various work incentives
- Gain a general knowledge base of benefits and an ability to make an informed choice related to going to work

# True or False?

- On Disability I can only have \$2,000 in the Bank.
- If I make more than \$1,000 I will lose my Disability benefits.
- I have to keep at least \$1.00 of SSI to keep my Medicaid.
- I have to report my tax refund to Social Security.
- The rules for SSI and Disability are the same.
- If I lose my benefits (SSDI or SSI benefits) I have to do new application.

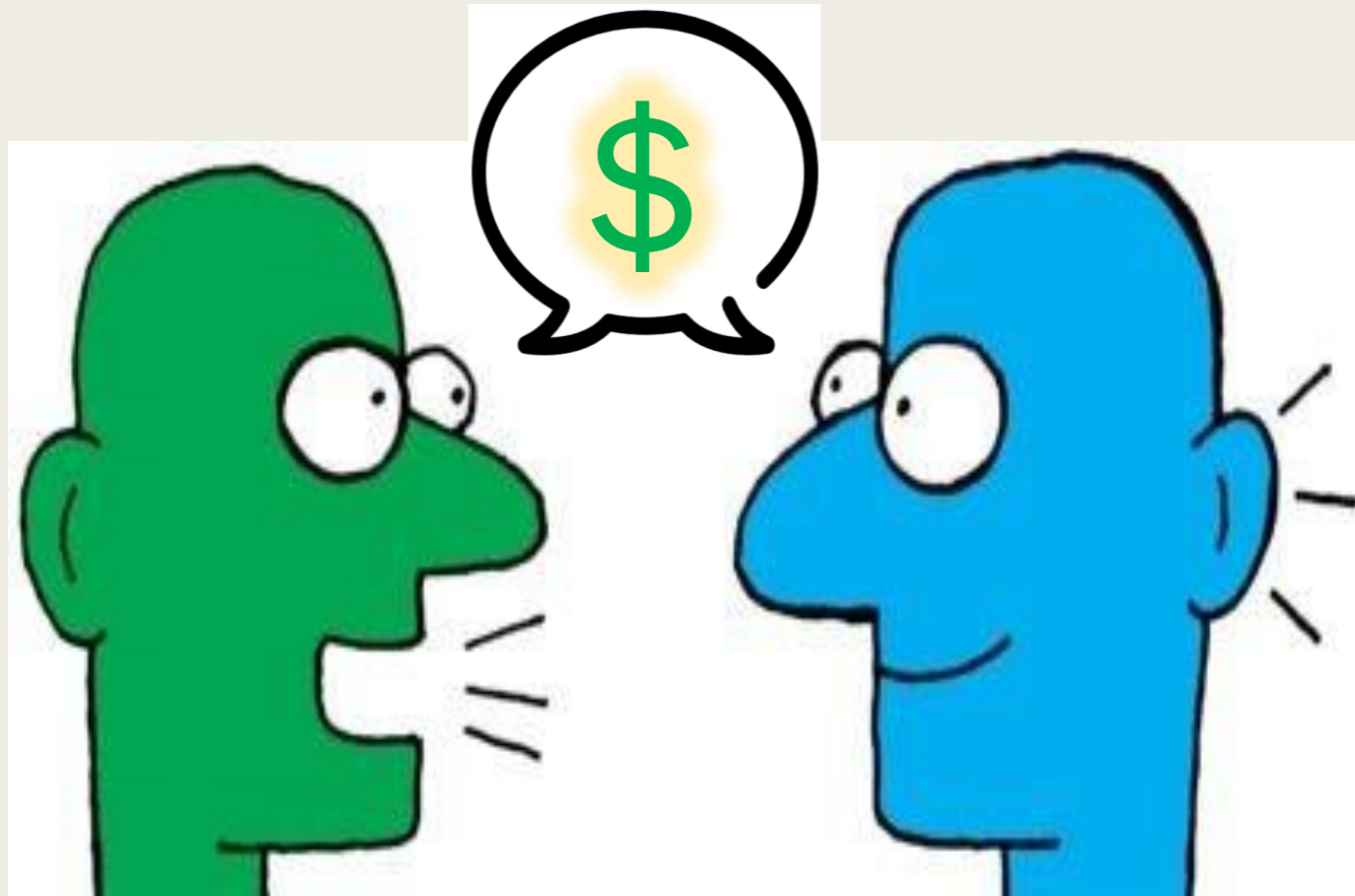
# The Big Question:

- Will I lose my benefits?

- *Cash payments*

- *Health care*

# SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT ALL KNOWING



\*They base decisions on what you tell them!

# Disability Benefit Programs

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Both SSDI and SSI = Concurrent benefits

# Overview of Social Security Benefit Programs

## Title II Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

- Entitlement program based upon insured status
- 3 different forms – SSDI, CDB and DWB
- Comes with Medicare coverage
- Amount of benefit varies
- **Received on 3rd of month (typically)**
- Income counted when it's earned.

## Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Funded by federal tax dollars, not Social Security trust fund
- Welfare program based upon financial eligibility
- Comes with Medicaid coverage
- Set full benefit amount (\$783)
- **Received on 1st of month**
- Income counted when it's received.

# Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)





# Social Security's Definition of having a Disability

*“The inability to engage in any **substantial gainful activity** by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has **lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.**”*

# Benefits and Going Back to Work



# Social Security Disability Insurance

## Three Phases:

- Trial Work Period – Income over \$910 triggers it for 2020. Allows you to work and still receive benefits. 9 months, non consecutive. NEVER jeopardizes cash benefits
- Extended Period of Eligibility – 36 months. Cash benefit determined by whether you earn above or below Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) – For 2020, \$2,110 for blind/\$1,260 for non-blind
- Expedited Reinstatement – 60 months. Work income over SGA results in termination. A contacting SSA reinstates provisional (temporary) benefits.



# Trial Work Period



- A 9-month “Trial Work Period”
- Income equal to or more \$910.00 (2020)
- Allows you to work & receive SSDI benefits.
- 9 months not necessarily consecutive
- The amount of income earned NEVER jeopardizes cash benefits

# Extended Period of Eligibility



- 36 months of Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- Income less than SGA (\$2,110 for blind/\$1,260 for non-blind) = cash benefit.
- Income at SGA or over = no cash benefit (for 1 month).
- 3 Grace Period Checks.
- Check can be “ceased”.
- Medicare continues/Medicaid continues.
- Reinstatement is automatic.

# What is Expedited Reinstatement?





- If your benefits ended because you worked and had earnings, you can request that your benefits start again without having to complete a new application. While we determine whether you can get benefits again, we can give you provisional (temporary) benefits for up to 6 months.
  
- Are you eligible?
  - *If you are an SSDI or SSI beneficiary who:*
    - Stopped receiving benefits because of earnings from work,  
Are unable to work or perform substantial gainful activity,  
Are disabled because of an impairment(s) that is the same as or related to the impairment(s) that allowed you to get benefits earlier, and  
Make the request within 5 years from the month your benefits ended.


# Other SSDI Work Incentives

- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
  - *Out of pocket costs needed to work:*
    - Supported employment services
    - Attendant care services
    - Special transportation
    - Medical support devices
    - Counseling and medication
    - Work equipment
    - Over the counter items
    - Etc.
- Subsidy or Special Conditions
  - *Participants “earn” less than 100% of their wages*
  - *Participants receive additional assistance*

# What happens to Medicare if SSDI benefits stop?

- Continues for at least 93 months (7 years and 9 months) after the 9 month Trial Work Period
- After that you may be able to purchase Medicare coverage

MEDICARE  HEALTH INSURANCE	
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY ACT</b>	
NAME OF BENEFICIARY <b>JOHN D. DOE</b>	
MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER <b>123-45-6789A</b>	SEX <b>MALE</b>
IS ENTITLED TO	EFFECTIVE DATE
<b>HOSPITAL INSURANCE (PART A)</b>	<b>1/1/95</b>
<b>MEDICAL INSURANCE (PART B)</b>	<b>1/1/95</b>
SIGN HERE 	<i>John D. Doe</i>

MEDICARE  HEALTH INSURANCE	
Name/Nombre <b>JOHN L SMITH</b>	
Medicare Number/Número de Medicare <b>1EG4-TE5-MK72</b>	
Entitled to/Con derecho a	Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza
<b>HOSPITAL (PART A)</b>	<b>03-01-2016</b>
<b>MEDICAL (PART B)</b>	<b>03-01-2016</b>



# Medical Benefit Associated with SSDI

## Medicare

- Title II beneficiaries
- SSDI for 24 months
- Other disabilities may receive benefit immediately such as, Kidney failure or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

## Four parts

- Part A – Hospitalization (free)
- Part B – Dr. Services, medical services, supplies (**\$130**)
- Part C – Medicare Advantage Plans
- Part D – Prescription Drug Plans

# Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD)

- Must have a disability
- Must have earned income from employment
- Must be under age 65
- Must meet income and resource requirements (higher than SSI requirements)
- Same as Title 19 - administered by DHS
- Some individuals may pay a premium
- Higher resource limit (\$12,000/\$13,000)

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



# SSI Benefits

- Needs-based
- Paid out of general federal tax dollars
- Meant to provide enough \$ for basic food and shelter
- Comes with Medicaid/Title 19

# Basic Eligibility for SSI

- Aged 65 or older
- Blind (20/200 or less in better eye with glasses or field of vision less than 20 degrees); or
- Disabled; and
- Meet the income and resource tests; and
- Certain citizenship or residency requirements
- File an application.

# Federal Benefit Rate (FBR)

- Rate is set each year
- Receive full FBR when responsible for food and shelter
- 2020 rates:
  - *Individual: \$783*
  - *Eligible Couple: \$1,175*

# Income That Affects SSI

- Unearned income
- Gross wages/earnings and net earnings from self-employment, including in-kind items received in lieu of wages (like room and board)
- In-kind support and maintenance received from others

# Unearned Income and SSI

Common forms of unearned income would include the following:

- Social Security Title II benefits (SSDI)
- Veteran's benefits
- Worker's Compensation
- Unemployment Insurance
- Child Support
- Family Investment Program



# What is NOT Considered to be Income

- Any item that is not food or shelter and cannot be used to obtain food or shelter
  - *Examples:*
    - Housing Subsidy (Section 8/PH)
    - Income tax refunds
    - Proceeds of a loan
    - Payment of an individual's bills that are not for food or shelter items
    - Clothing

# Resource Limits

- Individual's countable resources must not exceed \$2,000 as of the first day of a given month.
- Eligible couple's countable resources must not exceed \$3,000 as of the first day of a given month.
- Unless on MEPD. (\$12,000/13,000)

# Common Resource Exclusions

- Household goods and personal effects
- Medical devices and adaptive equipment
- Some life insurance policies
- The home in which the beneficiary lives
- One automobile per household
- Some burial funds, burial spaces, and life insurance assigned to funeral provider
- Some student financial assistance
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
- Some trusts
- **Support from programs such as DHS and Section 8**

# How earnings affect SSI payments

- SSA counts less than half of your earned income
- SSA does not count the first \$20 of any kind (monthly)
- SSA does not count the first \$65 of earned income (monthly)
- Certain impairment related work expenses can also be deducted from your gross wages.

# Calculation of SSI w/earned income only

\$885	Earned Income
<u>-20</u>	General exclusion
\$865	
-65	Earned Income Exclusion
<u>\$800</u>	
/2	1/2 remaining earnings
<u>\$400</u>	Countable earnings

\$783.00 Federal Benefit Rate- 2020

-400.00 countable earnings

\$383.00 SSI payment

+ \$885 gross income =

**\$1,268.00 Total Gross Income**

**2-MONTH LAG**

**\*MAGIC NUMBER \$1,627 per month (for most people)**

# What happens if my earnings are so high that my SSI stops?

- Benefits can start again if you stop working or your earnings decrease (*12-month ineligible grace period*)
- If your earnings are so high that your SSI payments stop:
  - *Medicaid continues until you earn above a threshold (\$33,765); this is called 1619b*
  - *People with high medical costs can earn even more*

# SSI and Work Incentives

- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Blind Work Expenses (BWE)
- Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)

# Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

- To qualify for this exclusion, an individual must be:
  - *Under age 22; and*
  - *A student regularly attending school/training*
- Excludes per Month: \$1,870.00
- Excludes per Year: \$7,550.00

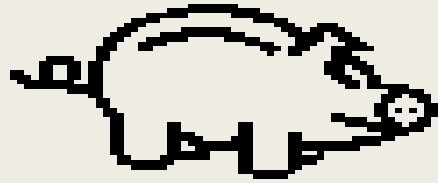


# Blind Work Expenses

Anything considered and IRWE plus

- Lunch costs
- Transportation to and from work
- Service animal expenses
- Federal, state and local income taxes
- Social Security taxes
- Attendant care services
- Visual and sensory aids
- Translation of materials into Braille
- Professional association fees
- Union dues

# Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS)



Allows an individual to set aside income and/or resources for a specified period of time to achieve their **vocational goal**.

# Examples of PASS Expenditures

- Supported Employment services
- Items & Capital for starting a Business
- Educational & Training expenses
- Attendant Care
- Child Care
- Equipment or tools
- Uniforms or special clothing
- Vehicle Purchases
- Etc.

## If you get both SSI & SSDI

- All of the work incentives apply



# What is a Ticket to Work?

A ticket you can use to get free employment services


**Social Security Administration**

**Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency**

Ticket Number  
123-45-6789TW


Claim Account Number 987-65-4321 W

Issue Date:



This ticket is issued to you by the Social Security Administration under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. If you want help in returning to work or going to work for the first time, you may offer this ticket to an Employment Network of your choosing or take it to your State vocational rehabilitation agency for services. If you choose an Employment Network and it agrees to take your ticket, or if you choose your State agency and you qualify for services, these providers can offer you services to help you go to work.

An Employment Network provides the services at no cost to you. The Social Security Administration will pay the Employment Network if you assign your ticket to it, and the Employment Network helps you go to work and complies with other requirements of the Program. An Employment Network serving under the Program has agreed to abide by the rules and regulations of the Program under the terms of its agreement with the Social Security Administration for providing services under the Program. Your State agency can tell you about its rules for getting services.

  
Commissioner of Social Security

# What is Ticket to Work?

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# Why Assign Your Ticket

- No medical review while ticket is in use and making timely progress
- Provides \$ for additional services for persons with a disability
- The program is voluntary
- You can always change your mind

# Things to remember

- Everyone can work
- You can work and maintain benefits
- You can gradually transition off benefits
- You can maintain your Medicare/Medicaid
- **ALWAYS reports wages to SSA, get receipt**
- Assign T2W





# True or False?

- On Disability I can only have \$2,000 in the Bank.
  - *Only applies to SSI Recipients. Can be raised through MEPD*
- If I make more than \$1,000 I will lose my Disability benefits.
  - *This refers to the SGA (SSDI); which \$1,220.00 or \$2,040.00.*
- I have to keep at least \$1.00 of SSI to keep my Medicaid.
  - *Absolutely not; even if you receive \$0.00 in SSI you can make \$33,261 per year.*
- I have to report my tax refund to Social Security.
  - *No. SSDI does not count unearned income. SSI has already counted it.*
- The rules for SSI and Disability are the same.
  - *Duh. 😊*
- If I lose my benefits (SSDI or SSI benefits) I have to do new application.
  - *If benefits are lost by working; only after the EXR period has expired.*

# Which is Which (Last Pop Quiz)

## 3 Magic Questions:

- *When do you (usually) receive your check?*
  - 1<sup>st</sup> (SSI)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> or a Certain Wednesday (SSDI)
- *How much is your check?*
  - \$783 or less (SSI)
  - More than \$783 (SSDI)
- *How many checks do you receive?*
  - 1 (SSI or SSDI)
  - 2 (Concurrent: SSI and SSDI)

THANK YOU &  
HAVE A GREAT DAY!