



What are Work Incentives Specialist Advocate (WISA) Services?

Work Incentives Specialist Advocates (WISAs) are fee-for-service vendors with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) in Virginia. They are trained and certified benefits and work incentives specialists, who can help SSI/SSDI beneficiaries answer complex questions about the impact of work on benefits, health insurance, disposable income, and work incentives.

Did You Know?

The Social Security Administration (SSA) does NOT count all of the income that a person earns from working when determining if a person is eligible for benefits and health insurance. There are work incentives available that reduce the amount of money that SSA counts. This means a person can test their ability to work and KEEP MORE OF THEIR BENEFITS.

How Can a WISA Help Me?

WISAs can talk through complex issues like:

- What will happen to my benefits and health insurance when I work?
- How much money can I earn?
- What work incentives apply to me?
- What happens if I can no longer work?

The most important thing to remember is that in most cases, even if benefits change due to work, **YOU WILL STILL HAVE MORE MONEY COMING IN WHEN YOU WORK THAN YOU WOULD ON BENEFITS ALONE.**

For More Information

If you're interested in finding out more about how a WISA can help you as you work, contact:

- Your VR counselor at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
- Your VR counselor at the Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI)

If you're NOT receiving services from a state VR agency but receive Medicaid waiver services, **ask your Medicaid worker about available services under WISA. If you're receiving SSI/SSDI and receiving services from VR or Medicaid waiver, benefits planning services are available to you AT NO COST.**