



Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)
Ticket to Work referrals: 1.866.968.7842
Direct referrals: 321.632.8610 extension 253

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program

BAC WIPA program works in partnership with Social Security Administration in providing accurate information and planning services to beneficiaries in Brevard, Glades, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and St. Lucie Counties in Florida.

BAC WIPA program supports Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries who want to go to work. The WIPA program assists individuals between the ages of 14 through full retirement age who receive SSI or SSDI, and their advocates, by providing them with accurate information on the various benefits and work incentives they may be eligible for to empower them to make informed choices about employment.

A certified **Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC)** will assist individuals with developing an understanding of the impact work will have on their SSDI/Medicare as well as SSI/Medicaid benefits. In addition, the CWIC will explore with the individual how best to utilize the various work incentives available to them, including how or when to use the "Ticket to Work" program.

WIPA Services Provided:

- Assist beneficiaries with understanding the rules and impact of specific Social Security work incentives.
- Provide information and referral to other community resources.
- Identify the potential benefits of employment while dispelling the myths about working.
- Analyze how earnings may impact SSI/Medicaid, SSDI/Medicare, healthcare, and other public benefits.
- A Benefits Summary Analysis (BS&A) is a comprehensive report that promotes making informed decisions about work options.
- **For a referral, call Ticket to Work at 1-866-968-7842. If you are not employed and don't have a job off, call BAC directly at 321-632-8610 extension 253.**



Important First Step (Ordering a BPQY)

Benefits Planning Query (BPQY): A BPQY (SSA-2459) provides information about a beneficiary's disability cash benefits, health insurance, scheduled continuing disability reviews, representative payee, and work history, as stored in SSA's electronic records. The BPQY is an important planning tool to provide you with customized services based on your situation.

Please request a BPQY (SSA-2459) by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter in the morning, later in the week, and later in the month.

People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call the toll-free TTY/TDD number, 1-800-325-0778. Social Security provides the BPQY's free of charge when you are working with the WIPA Program. You can find the number for your local SSA office at <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

Please also provide your annual Social Security statement with a yearly list of IRS recorded earnings. This will help us understand if there are any earnings SSA hasn't developed, which can affect which work incentives you have available. You can print this list by logging into (or creating) your *my Social Security* account on SSA's website: ssa.gov/myaccount. If you are not able to create a *my Social Security* account, you can mail a "Request for Social Security Statement" (SSA-7004) to SSA. You can obtain this form online at ssa.gov/forms/ssa-7004.pdf or by calling your local office.

If you receive Veterans benefits, please provide a copy of your benefit letter. You can log into your VA account at www.va.gov/records/download-va-letters/ and print the letter showing the type of VA benefits you receive, including your disability rating and individual employability (if applicable).

Finally, if you receive Medicare or Medicaid please provide documents showing your specific plan. You can log into your Medicare account at www.medicare.gov/account/login/ and print the page showing your Part D or Medicare Advantage plan (or call 1-800-633-4227 [TTY 1-877-486-2048] to authorize Mary Melendez to speak to Medicare). And you can access your Medicaid account at dcf-access.dcf.state.fl.us/access/index.do to print a page showing the type of Medicaid you have.

Thank you, we look forward to speaking with you and assisting you with your efforts to return to work.