

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS & EMPLOYMENT

What you NEED to KNOW and your RESPONSIBILITIES!

Now that you've taken a job, there are some items that you are now responsible to do on a regular basis.

- If you are working while still in school and receive SSI benefits, you are eligible for the **Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) program**. This program involves any student, under the age of 22 (including anyone going to college or trade school) who may chose to work, particularly during the summer time. The SSA will exclude all of the gross monthly earnings (up to \$1,640 per month) and the use of the SEIE allows the beneficiary to have "reportable income" reduced thus providing a net increase to the monthly SSI benefit. **Send a letter to your local Social Security Administration Office and inform them of your age, school status, copies of your check stubs and name of the program (SEIE).**
- Once you are no longer attending school, at the end of each month, you need to **send a letter to your local Social Security Administration (SSA) Office and make copies of your pay stubs. Remember to include the dates worked and amounts of each check.** In time, your SSI check amount will not be the same amount you are used to getting because of employment. However, this is a **good thing** because it means you are **making more money and bringing in more income.**

For example: **\$800** (Gross Monthly Earnings)

- **\$85** (Income Inclusion)

\$715 (Countable Earned Income divided by 2 = **\$375** (Countable Earned Income))

\$674 (maximum amount a person can receive on SSI {Federal Benefit

- **\$375.50** (Countable Earned Income)

Rate 2010}

\$316.50 Adjusted SSI Cash Benefit

Total Monthly Income: **\$800.00** Wages + **\$316.50** SSI = **\$1,166.50**

What do you prefer to earn? **\$1,166.50** vs. **\$674.00**

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- If you ride **specialized** transportation (Metro + Services through Easton Coach), you need to include in your letter the following information. **"I would like to apply my specialized transportation as an Impaired-Related Work Expense (IRWE). Each ticket cost \$____. I worked ____ days. I would like to apply (include total amount) as IRWE"**. If you send this in each month along with your check stubs, you will only need to send one letter a month.

For additional information contact Louise Harmer in Lehigh County @ Phone: 1-866-541-7005 Ext. 7 Email: louise@passabco.com or Adam Bender in Carbon County at Phone: 1-866-541-7005 Ext. 4 Email: adam@passabco.com. Website address: www.ssa.gov.