



Michigan Updates

*A Social Security Newsletter for Employment
Support Updates*



January is National Braille Literacy Month.

In 1824, at the age of 15, Louis Braille invented the 6-dot braille system.

If you or someone you know is blind or has low vision, check out our accessible publication to learn about our special services in formats such as Braille.

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10052.pdf>



Choose Work

BLOG

The official blog
of Social Security's
Ticket to Work program



Register Now!

Social Security's Work Incentives Seminar Event (WISE) Webinar: Ticket to Work: Support for People with Disabilities on the Journey to Financial Independence

Join us for our next WISE Webinar on January 22, 2014 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. EST. Register online at www.choosework.net/wise or call 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).

This webinar is a great opportunity for individuals who have previously participated in a Ticket to Work and Work Incentives webinar to learn more about the path to financial independence.

The January 22 webinar will present tips, tools, and resources that help you:

- Learn how to save what you earn
- Understand tax benefits that may apply to you
- Gain basic financial knowledge such as budgeting and expense tracking

If you cannot make the live event, wish to review the information, or are looking for a particular webinar topic, our most recent webinars can be downloaded from our webinar library.

40 percent
of Social Security
Disability Insurance
beneficiaries express
interest in working.

Our work incentives
allow them to
return to work.

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf

What are WIPA and PABSS? How Can They Help You?

Social Security disability beneficiaries have a team of service providers to help them be successful in entering or re-entering the workforce. Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) projects and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) organizations are two members of that team that can provide help and advice when it's needed.

WIPA projects are community-based organizations that are authorized by Social Security to provide free benefits counseling to disability beneficiaries to help them make informed choices about work and financial independence. Each WIPA project has certified Community Work Incentives Counselors (CWICs) who provide one-on-one counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits.

PABSS organizations are responsible for protecting the legal rights of Social Security disability beneficiaries who want to work. PABSS provides information, advocacy, legal representation and other services. If you think you may have been discriminated against because of your disability, a PABSS representative will be able to help you discuss your options.

There is a Find Help tool at www.chooseworktw.net that will show the nearest WIPA or PABSS contacts. Below are the contacts in Michigan.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <u>Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit</u>  | | |
| 3111 Grand River Avenue Detroit, MI 48208 | Phone: 313-557-8718 Toll Free: 888-232-4140 | TTY Number: Toll Free TTY: |
| <hr/> | | |
| <u>The Arc of Michigan, Inc</u>  | | |
| 1325 South Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48910 | Phone: Toll Free: 800-292-7851 | TTY Number: Toll Free TTY: |
| <hr/> | | |
| <u>UCP of Metropolitan Detroit</u>  | | |
| 23077 Greenfield Road Street, Suite 205 Southfield, MI 40875 | Phone: 248-557-5070 Toll Free: 800-827-4843 | TTY Number: Toll Free TTY: |
| <hr/> | | |
| <u>Michigan P&A Services</u>  | | |
| 4095 Legacy Parkway, Suite 500 Lansing, MI 48911 | Phone: 517-487-1755 Toll Free: 800-288-5923 | TTY Number: 517-487-1755 Toll Free TTY: 800-288-5923 |

Who can receive benefits on your record if you're approved for Social Security disability benefits?

When you start receiving disability benefits, certain members of your family also may qualify for benefits on your record. Benefits may be paid to your:

- Spouse
- Divorced spouse
- Children
- Disabled child, and/or
- Adult child disabled before age 22

If any of your qualified family members apply for benefits, we will ask for their Social Security numbers and their birth certificates.

If your spouse is applying for benefits, we may also ask for proof of marriage, and dates of prior marriages, if applicable.

There is a maximum family amount payable on a work record. Each family member may be eligible for a monthly benefit of up to 50 percent of your disability rate. However, there is a limit to the amount we can pay your family.

The total depends on your benefit amount and the number of family members who also qualify on your record. The total varies, but generally the total amount you and your family can receive is about 150 to 180 percent of your disability benefit.

If the sum of the benefits payable on your account is greater than the family limit, the benefits to the family members will be reduced proportionately. Your benefit will not be affected.

If you have a divorced spouse who qualifies for benefits, it will not affect the amount of benefits you or your family may receive.

For more information on the various benefits paid to family, check out the Social Security Disability Planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan.



Disability Benefits

You can apply online for disability benefits from the convenience of your home, or on any computer.

There's no need to wait for an appointment or make a trip to your local Social Security office.

www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability

If you need to apply for disability benefits, apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability

Get the latest information.
Conveniently.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S WEBINARS

See past and upcoming events at
www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars



Benefit Verification Letters On-Line

For those of you who were unable to attend the Webinar “Benefit Verification Letters On-Line”, it is available for viewing at www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars. It talks about how verifying your clients’ Social Security benefits is as easy as 1-2-3. The webinar is designed for advocates, social service agencies and other third parties to help promote the use of Social Security’s online service options.

Additionally, the webinar will provide information on:

- How to establish a mySocialSecurity account; and
- How to get a Benefit Verification letter online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount

Future Michigan Updates

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive future Michigan Updates or removed from the mailing list, send an email to vonda.vantil@ssa.gov