



Michigan Department of  
**Career Development**

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Office of Workforce Development

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**Official**

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**Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD)**  
**Office of Workforce Development (OWD)**  
**Policy Issuance: 00-28**  
**Index: I**

**Date:** May 09, 2000

**To:** Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) Directors

**Subject:** Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medical Limitations

**Programs**

**Affected:** Work First and Work First (Welfare to Work [WtW])

**Rescissions:** None

**Background:** The Family Independence Agency (FIA) temporarily defers a Family Independence Program client from Work First if the client applies for Supplemental Security Income/Retirement Survivor and Disability Income (SSI/RSDI) based on either physical or mental disabilities. This deferral will continue until the application for SSI is denied or approved. If a client has been denied SSI due to a lack of duration (the condition is temporary), the client may be deferred for up to one year. Any applicant for SSI/RSDI based on disability may be deferred from Work First activities until a **final** Social Security Administration (SSA) decision, including all appeals, has been made.

Also, FIA refers clients to Work First who are not in the SSI process but who may possess medical statements indicating participation restrictions, such as working a limited number of hours, lifting up to a certain poundage, or performing a particular job.

**Policy:**

**SSI**

No one should be referred to Work First if a SSI application is pending. If a current Work First client has a pending SSI determination, the MWA may refer the client back to the FIA until the final SSA determination has been made. When the FIA is notified of the final SSA decision, the client will be referred back to the MWA at the end of the deferral period if the application was denied. The MWA will be provided with any evidence of medical restrictions available from the FIA. This evidence may also be requested directly from the client. The client will be expected to participate in Work First or employment related activities at a medically permissible level.

Any Work First client who indicates that he or she has a medical condition which prevents him or her from working should be advised to contact their Family Independence Specialist (FIS) worker to apply for SSI if he or she has not already received a final SSA decision as defined above. The FIS worker will notify the MWA once the client has applied for SSI. After the MWA has been notified of the SSI application, the client will be referred back to the FIA utilizing the Management Information System termination code 68.

If the FIA determines that it is not appropriate for the client to apply for SSI, he or she will be referred to Work First and will be expected to attend a joint orientation and/or general orientation. During the development of the Individual Service Strategy, the MWA may deem it necessary to make a referral for a medical assessment before proper placement into an allowable activity.

**Medical Limitations**

When a client is referred with a medical statement indicating a reduction in participation hours or other restrictions, such as lifting up to a certain poundage or performing a particular job, the MWA is required to accommodate the client's medical limitation(s) when placing them into activities.

If an MWA is questioning the validity of the medical statement, the MWA may obtain a medical assessment on the participant. Based on the outcome of the assessment, the MWA will make the necessary accommodations in order for the client to participate to the maximum extent possible.

**Funding Source**

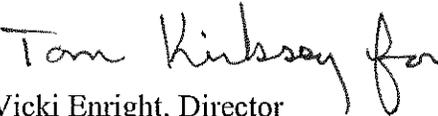
Employment related medical assessments are an allowable expenditure of Work First and Work First (WtW) funds.

**Inquiries:** Questions regarding this policy issuance should be directed to your Work First or the Work First (WtW) Grant Coordinator at (517) 335-5858.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the information contained in this policy issuance will be made available in alternative format (large type, audio tape, etc.) upon special request received by this office.

**Expiration**

**Date:** Continuing

  
Vicki Enright, Director  
Office of Workforce Development

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