



# Resources for Work Equals Success for Me!

We have resources and programs to help you prepare to work. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program has work incentives to help you increase your income. Work incentives may allow you to continue receiving your SSI payments and Medicaid coverage while you work.

There are several work incentives available to you while you receive SSI and have a paid job. For information on all work incentives for SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), visit [www.ssa.gov/redbook](http://www.ssa.gov/redbook) and read *The Red Book — A Guide to Work Incentives and Employment Supports for People Who Have a Disability Under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) And Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Programs* (Publication No. 64-030).

## Rob's Story

At 17, Rob, who has cerebral palsy, wanted to enroll in a vocational training program. Rob's parent expressed concerns about Rob losing SSI payments and Medicaid eligibility. Rob's teacher explained the program's opportunities, the benefits they would gain from paid employment, and how work incentives could help without Rob losing SSI or Medicaid benefits. With the parent's concerns addressed, Rob enrolled in the vocational training program.



Below are examples of the resources and programs that are available to help you, like Rob, prepare for work.

## Grants and Scholarships

You may be planning to continue your education in college, and you may get grants, scholarships, fellowships, or gifts. We do not count these items as income or as a resource for up to 9 months, when we figure your SSI payments. This applies if you use these items now or set them aside for future use to pay for tuition, fees, and other necessary educational expenses at any educational institution (including vocational and technical schools).

Other types of assistance have no limits on time or on how you can use them. When we figure SSI payments, we do not count all student financial

assistance received under the Bureau of Indian Affairs student assistance programs. Nor do we count assistance received under the Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, including the following:

- Pell grants.
- Federal PLUS loans.
- Perkins loans.
- Stafford loans.
- Ford Federal Direct loans.
- Work study programs.

If you receive SSI and are awarded any grants, scholarships, or educational loans, make sure to share your good news with us. This will help us assist you.

## Ticket to Work Program

Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary program. Most people receiving SSDI or SSI who are between the ages of 18 and 64 have a Ticket available to them. They may assign their Ticket to a state vocational rehabilitation agency or another approved provider of their choice for employment services and supports.

You can visit [choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp/](https://www.ssa.gov/findhelp/) or contact the Ticket to Work Help Line at **1-866-968-7842** (TTY **1-866-833-2967**), between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday for additional information about the Ticket to Work program.

## Contacting Us

The most convenient way to do business with us is to visit [www.ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) to get information and use our online services. There are several things you can do online: apply for most types of benefits; start or complete your request for an original or replacement Social Security card; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

Or, you can call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at **1-800-325-0778** (TTY) if you're deaf or hard of hearing. We can answer your call from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekdays. We provide free interpreter services upon request. For quicker access to a representative, try calling early in the day (between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. local time) or later in the day. **We are less busy later in the week (Wednesday to Friday) and later in the month.** You can also use our automated services via telephone, 24 hours a day, so you do not need to speak with a representative.

Youth Toolkit 2024

You can find additional information and resources to make a successful transition to adulthood at [www.ssa.gov/youth/](https://www.ssa.gov/youth/)



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