



WORKS FOR ME EMPLOYMENT REFERENCE GUIDE TIOGA COUNTY

WORK INCENTIVE PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROJECT (WIPA)

WIPA projects are community-based organizations that work to enable beneficiaries with disabilities to make informed choices about work, and to support working beneficiaries to make a successful transition to financial independence. Each WIPA project has a Community Work Incentives Coordinator who will work with you one on one to provide in-depth counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits.

A community work incentives coordinator will:

- Discuss how returning to work can impact your SSI or SSDI.
- Recommend work incentives that can help you get the most out of your income and health care options.
- Assist you in finding Employment Networks and other employment support services who can help you find a job.
- Assist you in finding resources for training, assistive technology, and other support you may need to work.

In your area, a community work incentives coordinator can be reached at:

- Goodwill Keystone Area – 888-960-9675
- Beneficiary Access and Support Services (BASS) - Social Security's Help Center, Phone: 1-866-968-7842/1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD)
- Website: <http://www.choosework.net/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/choosework>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/chooseworkssa>
- Email: support@chooseworkttw.net

TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM/EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS

The Ticket to Work program can help you:

- find a job,
- get job training, and
- receive other support services.

As a Social Security beneficiary, you probably have a “ticket”. At one time Social Security mailed paper tickets to beneficiaries; however, they no longer do this. You can assign your “ticket” to an Employment Network who will help you find a job. An Employment Network is an approved agency that offers services to help people with disabilities find a job, get job training and more. If you are unsure of your eligibility in the program, or have further questions, there is a helpline that can assist you with any Ticket to Work specific questions. The number is 1-866-968-7842.

Throughout Pennsylvania there are many Employment Networks that you can choose from. For a complete up-to-date listing of Employment Networks in Pennsylvania, go to www.ssa.gov/work/ or call the SSA Helpline at:

1-866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 (TTY)

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS)

The Protection & Advocacy (P&A) network is the nation's largest provider of legally based advocacy service for people with disabilities. Social Security's P&A Program, known as Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS), serves Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries with disabilities who want to work. The PABSS organization in Pennsylvania is:

Disability Rights Network
800-692-7443 or 877-375-7139 (TTY)

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors. Services are provided on an individualized basis. The OVR counselor, during face-to-face interviews, assists customers in selecting their choice of vocational goals, services and service providers. An Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) is developed, outlining a vocational objective, services, providers and responsibilities. Certain services are subject to a Financial

Needs Test (FNT) and may require financial participation by the customer. Counseling and guidance, diagnostic services, assessments, information and referral, job development and placement, and personal services such as readers or sign language interpreters are provided at no cost to the individual. Also, by law OVR customers receiving Social Security benefits for their disability (SSI, SSDI) are exempt from OVR's Financial Needs Test.

The contact information for your local OVR Office is as follows:

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Grit Building, Suite 102
208 W. 3rd Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570)327-3600

PA CAREERLINK

In addition to these resources, you may also connect with your local PA CareerLink office. PA CareerLink® is a one-stop shop that connects employers and job seekers in the most efficient manner possible. Highly-trained staff offers visitors a wide range of materials, consultation services, and on-line access to a comprehensive database of employment information.

Your local PA CareerLink is located at:

56 Plaza Lane
Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-1939

GETTINGHIRED.COM

We also often refer individuals to a website, www.gettinghired.com , I have included a brief explanation of their resources and a link to the site below:

**Getting Hired's mission is to create sustainable employment growth and opportunity for people with disabilities. This website is designed to highlight your talents, skills, experience, interests and education and match them to specific jobs and internships posted by our Employer partners.

We encourage you to register by going online to www.gettinghired.com. As soon as you register, you will be instantly connected to tens of thousands of jobs offered by our participating employer partners who are eager to tap into America's most underutilized,

talented labor pool. There is no cost to you to register and take full advantage of our fully accessible career building tools.

THINK BEYOND THE LABEL

Another source of job postings, resources and on-line job fairs is available at www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com. The Think Beyond the Label jobs portal gives you information, tools and resources to help ensure that your job search results in meaningful employment in your chosen field. Unlike traditional job boards, Think Beyond the Label connects job seekers with businesses who are actively recruiting job candidates with disabilities. Their unique model is focused on recruitment, offering a fresh approach to your job search by creating opportunities to directly feature you to and connect you with our network of businesses. Their public-private partnership also offers you direct access to the employment services system in your state. There is no cost for you to register and utilize these resources.

BENDER CONSULTING SERVICES

Bender Consulting Services help empower that overlooked pool of talent, by placing knowledgeable individuals with disabilities in competitive positions at major corporations and government agencies - never in the charity work or underpaid jobs so many people with disabilities have endured. Bender Consulting Services is a rapidly growing company with a dynamic group of people headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with operations in 19 states.

You can reach them at:

By Mail, Bender Consulting Services, Inc.
3 Penn Center West, Suite 223
Pittsburgh, PA 15276
USA

By telephone, 412-787-8567 or TTY/TDD Relay Service using 800-654-5988
By fax, dial 412-787-7178

Looking for a job? resume@benderconsult.com

Employer looking to fill a position? employer@benderconsult.com

Just interested in us or want to ask a question? info@benderconsult.com