Plan for Achieving Self-Support

A PASS can be developed to cover the costs of:

- obtaining an education,
- receiving vocational training,
- starting a business,
- getting support services which may help you work, and eventually depend less on SSI.

Examples of things allowed in a PASS are vocational evaluation, some transportation-related expenses, job-related equipment and uniforms, things needed to purchase a business, or other equipment or services to support work activities.

How It Works

A special form (SSA 545) is available at the Social Security Administration (SSA) office to develop a PASS. A Community Work Incentives Coordinator, an Indiana Benefits Information Network Liaison, or a work incentive liaison at the SSA office may be available to support you in writing the PASS. To qualify for a PASS, you must:

- have a feasible work goal.
- have a specific savings/spending plan for work-related items or services and specify how those items or services are related to employment.
- have a clearly identifiable accounting of the funds set aside in the PASS.
- follow the PASS plan as agreed upon with the SSA.

Once you have written the PASS, a representative in the SSA office will ensure it has been completed properly or request additional information. When the PASS is completed, it will be sent to a regional PASS specialist in the SSA who will review the PASS and make a final decision on the plan.

Several special rules and requirements apply to PASS plans. A Community Work Incentives Coordinator or an Indiana Benefits Information Network Liaison can provide information on how to meet these requirements and help you monitor your progress toward your work goal.

The information contained in this fact sheet has been reviewed by the Social Security Administration, Office of Employment Support Programs, for accuracy. However, the viewpoints of this fact sheet do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the Social Security Administration.