Disability Benefits and Young Adults

- Two very important concepts, in two very different systems:
  - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Dependent Benefits vs. Childhood Disability Benefits
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Age 18 Redetermination
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

- Dependent Benefits – drawing cash benefits off of a parent’s record, under the age of 18 (or 19 and still in school), may or may not have a disability.

- Childhood Disability Benefits – drawing cash benefits off of a parent’s record, over the age of 18, have a disability that began before the age of 22.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Age 18 Redetermination – Occurs between the 18th and 19th birthday when a child receives SSI. The adult disability standard is stricter; some children (who are now adults) may no longer qualify for SSI.
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Work Incentives

- Trial Work Period (TWP)
- Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- Subsidy/Special Condition
- Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
- Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits (EXR)

Trial Work Period (TWP)

- 9 months in a *rolling* 60 month period
- Earn an unlimited amount of money
- $780 or more per month (in 2015) counts as a trial work month
Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)

- Happens as soon as the TWP ends
- 36 consecutive months of protection, regardless of earnings

If *countable* earnings are below Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA $1,090 non-blind, $1,820 stat blind) cash benefits continue

If *countable* earnings are above SGA cash benefits are *suspended NOT terminated*

Subsidies/Special Conditions

- Subsidies – Provided by the employer to help the employee do their job. Examples include extra supervision, extra breaks, allowing lower productivity

- Special conditions – Provided by someone other than the employer. Examples include on-site job coach and accommodations provided by Vocational Rehabilitation

- The value of these (determined by the Social Security Administration) can lower countable earnings in an SGA decision
Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE) for SSDI

- Related to an impairment that’s being treated by a medical professional
- Paid for out-of-pocket
- Reasonable
- Needed to work
- Paid for while working

Expeditied Reinstatement of Benefits (EXR)

- Would apply after the EPE
- If earnings drop below SGA within 60 months of working way off of cash benefits
- Short application
- 6 months of provisional benefits
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Work Incentives

- Countable Income Formula
- Student Earned Income Exclusion
- Impairment Related Work Expense for SSI (IRWE)
- Blind Work Expense (BWE)
- Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)

Countable Income Formula (1619a)

- General Income Disregard of $20 – applied to unearned income (if any)
- Earned Income Exclusion of $65
- Divide remainder of income by 2
- Subtract from current Federal Benefit Rate ($733 individual, $1,100 couple) – 2015 rates
Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

- Applies to working students under the age of 22 regularly attending school
- SSA ignores up to $1,780 per month, up to a maximum of $7,180 per year in 2015

Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE) for SSI

- Related to an impairment that’s being treated by a medical professional
- Paid for out-of-pocket
- Reasonable
- Needed to work
- Paid for while working
- Get credit for 50%
Blind Work Expense (BWE)

- Must be classified as stat blind with SSA
- 100% is counted
- Everything that’s an IRWE is a BWE plus more!
  - Federal and state taxes
  - Meals eaten at work
  - Child care expenses
  - Union dues

Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)

- Set aside money to reach an occupational goal
- Money set aside lowers countable income, resulting in more money in SSI check
- Plan must be approved and used to become more self sufficient
Healthcare Incentives

- Extended Period of Medicare Coverage
- MEDWorks
- 1619b

Extended Period of Medicare Coverage

- Medicare is tied to SSDI – get it 24 months after entitled
- Keep Medicare at least 93 months after the TWP if you work your way off of cash benefits
- Can purchase Medicare after that
MEDWorks

- State Medicaid buy-in program for working people with disabilities
- Good for SSDI beneficiaries who may or may not currently have Medicaid
- Pay a monthly premium based on total income
- Medicaid will pay Medicare premiums (currently $105/month for Part B)

Section 1619b

- Medicaid protection for SSI beneficiaries
- Must have SSI and Medicaid one month prior to working
- Protects Medicaid coverage while earning up to $37,087 per year (in 2015)
HUD Earned Income Disregard

- Applies to certain types of HUD subsidized housing: public housing, voucher, Home Investment Partnership Program, Housing Opportunities to Persons with AIDS
- Not count 100% of earnings first year, 50% of earnings second year

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