

trial work period, the most important figure is the amount that constitutes a trial work month. However, when the trial work period has expired and you are in the extended period of eligibility, then the most important amount is the substantial gainful activity amount. In addition, if you are returning to work as an employee, it is important to remember that for all earnings the gross earnings are what the Social Security Administration considers and not net earnings.

Work incentives include, but are not limited to:

- Trial Work Period
- Extended Period of Eligibility
- Extended Medicare Coverage
- Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits
- General and Earned Income Exclusions
- 1619(a) &(b)
- IRWEs and Subsidy

## How Do I Contact a PABSS Advocate?

If you need advocacy or legal services concerning work issues, contact your statewide PABSS project at:

**South Dakota Advocacy Services, Inc., 221 South Central Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501**  
**1-800-658-4782-voice/TDD**  
**Email: [sdas@sdadvocacy.com](mailto:sdas@sdadvocacy.com)**  
**Web: [www.sdadvocacy.com](http://www.sdadvocacy.com)**

### Branch Offices:

**SD Advocacy Services**  
**1575 LaCrosse Street, Suite K**  
**Rapid City, SD 57701**

**SD Advocacy Services**  
**2121 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Pl, Suite 30**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57108**

**SD Advocacy Services**  
**1719 Broadway, Suite B-2**  
**Yankton, SD 57078**

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*Helping People With Work Issues*

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# PABSS

Protection and  
Advocacy for  
Beneficiaries of  
Social Security

**DO YOU GET  
SSI OR SSDI?**

**DO YOU WANT  
TO WORK?**

The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security is a federally-funded initiative to assist beneficiaries of Social Security who are trying to return to or begin working. This Project is staffed by licensed attorneys and advocates who are able to provide legal and advocacy assistance with return to work issues.

## **How Can This Project Help Me?**

This Project is for people with disabilities who receive either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or both. **The Social Security Administration has many “Work Incentives” that may make it worthwhile for you to go back to work.**

If you decide to return to work, you may need advocacy or legal assistance with return to work issues. The PABSS Program can assist you with these issues. Such issues might include accessing needed services, supports, and accommodations. If you are planning on returning to work and are currently using vocational rehabilitation services, you may

need advocacy assistance in dealing with your provider. There is no cost for these services.

## **What Specific Areas Can PABSS Staff Assist Me in Gaining, Maintaining or Regaining work?**

Specifically, the PABSS program provides assistance in the following areas when the issue is a clear barrier to securing, maintaining or regaining employment:

- Employment Discrimination
- Appropriate Services from an Employment Network
- School to Work Transition
- Post-Secondary Education
- Social Security Overpayments
- SSA Work Related Decisions
- PASS Writing
- Housing
- Representative Payee

## **What Should I Do If I Want to Return to Work But I Am Afraid of Losing My Benefits?**

If you want to return to work, but are afraid about what will happen to your state and federal benefits, you should contact South Dakota Advocacy Services to set up an appointment. They will inform you about the different “Work Incentives,” such as the one that allows you to keep your Medicaid or Medicare benefits while you work. With this information, you can make an informed decision about going to work.

## **What Are Some of the Work Incentives Offered to SSI Recipients and SSDI Beneficiaries?**

There are many different work incentives offered to disabled Beneficiaries. Some are specific to SSI or SSDI only. It is important you understand the work incentives as much as possible before you go back to work. For example, when dealing with the