

# Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) On The Rhode To Independence

- ◆ What will happen to my SSI or SSDI payments if I attempt to work?
  - ◆ Will I lose my Medicaid or Medicare benefits?

## Benefits Planning and Assistance

Many people mistakenly believe that once they have been awarded SSI or SSDI benefits by Social Security, they must not attempt to work. They fear that to do so will immediately put their benefits at risk.

In reality, the Social Security Administration encourages people who receive disability benefits to attempt to work through the provisions of work incentives. Use of these work incentives often allows individuals to improve the quality of their lives through satisfying employment. Work Incentives may also allow individuals to keep their Medicare or Medicaid benefits while they work.

## Work Incentives...What do they all mean?

### HELP IS AVAILABLE

The Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) recently entered into a cooperative agreement with the Social Security Administration to provide Work Incentive Planning and Assistance services throughout Rhode Island to individuals receiving SSI or SSDI on the basis of disability who wish to become more financially independent. For more information, contact a CWIC at the number listed below:

A trained Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) will explain the work incentives and assist you in using them to your best advantage as you move toward financial independence.

**Jeanne Fay, CWIC – 421-7005 x 405**  
**Roberta Greene-Whittemore, Project Director – 222-2300 x 421**

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