

The page features several large, stylized geometric shapes that resemble 3D arrows pointing to the right. These shapes are in various colors: a green one in the top left, a dark green one below it, a light blue one in the bottom left, a grey one in the center left, a large magenta one in the center right, and a red one below the magenta one. The main title is positioned to the right of these shapes.

Vocational Rehabilitation & other Employment Resources for Transition Age Youth

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**Disability
Rights** OHIO

www.disabilityrightsohio.org

Goals Today

Attendees will become familiar with employment resources available to transition age youth with disabilities to prepare these youth for success in future employment, including:

- Understanding the roles of and services offered by Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)
- Learning about vocational rehabilitation services, including services specifically for transition age youth, and how attendees can refer transition age youth to OOD
- Learning how DRO can assist transition age youth through its Client Assistance Program (CAP) and Protection and Advocacy of Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) grant

Who is DRO

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio

Ohio's designated Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

- Every state and territory has a federally designated Protection & Advocacy system, and a federally designated Client Assistance Program.
- Federally funded programs to advocate for individuals with disabilities

DRO Staff

- Intake specialists receive calls and provide information & referral
- Attorneys and advocates provide advocacy services to people with disabilities
 - Self-Advocacy Help, Limited Representation, Legal Advocacy (Individual or Class)
- Policy and communications staff educate Ohioans and policy makers about the agency and disability rights issues

What We Do

DRO provides legal advocacy and rights protection to a wide range of people with disabilities

This includes:

- Investigating abuse and neglect,
- Addressing disability discrimination,
- Accessing home and community based services,
- Navigating special education systems,
- Advocating for housing rights,
- Accessing job training,
- Ensuring access to voting,
- Review of payees for social security beneficiaries, and
- Benefits counseling

Eligibility for DRO Services

- Client must be person with a disability
- No income requirements
- No charge for our services

What is DRO's Client Assistance Program (CAP) ?

Federal grant program established by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1984.

- Designated by the governor

Purpose:

- Provide information to people with disabilities in Ohio about vocational rehabilitation (VR) services & other services funded under the Rehab Act (such as Independent Living services);
- Assist & advocate for individuals applying for or receiving those services;
- Provide information to people with disabilities in Ohio about rights under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (i.e. employment discrimination, how to make a reasonable accommodation request, where to file a complaint)

Examples of CAP Advocacy

- Providing information about Pre-ETS and VR services available in Ohio and how to apply;
- Discussing the need for transition planning and the importance of participation or work in the community before leaving school;
- Explaining eligibility requirements for VR services and how to prepare for an initial interview;
- Explaining the VR process (choosing a job goal, assessments, choosing services, etc.) ...

Examples of CAP Advocacy

Helping a VR client get appropriate services or job goal;

Helping a VR applicant or client resolve grievances or disputes with their VR counselor or service providers, such as advocating for clients who:

- have been turned down for VR services;
- have concerns about their VR counselor;
- are not satisfied with the VR services they are receiving;
- do not agree with a decision to close their case; and/or
- have other problems with VR services

Providing training to individuals with disabilities, family members or advocates

Examples of CAP Advocacy

Providing information to people with disabilities about their rights under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, such as:

- Employment discrimination
- How to make a reasonable accommodation request
- Where to file a complaint

Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Youth with Disabilities

Other Employment Resources for Transition Age Youth

Social Security Benefits

Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) ~
pays benefits to disabled adults and children with limited income and resources

Title II Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
~ pays benefits to workers who have accumulated a sufficient number of work credits & to their children

SSI Eligibility for Children under 18

1. Meet Social Security's definition of disability for child ~
 - have a **physical or mental impairment** or combination of impairments that **cause severe limitations in daily life**, and **condition has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 month**
2. Must also have no other way to pay for basic expenses like food, rent, and utilities.
 - Counts both child & parents earnings and resources, including savings accounts, stocks, and real estate.

SSI Eligibility when Turning 18

During 1st year after turning 18 Social Security will do a review called **SSI Age-18 Redetermination**

- The process of determining whether the young person meet Social Security's adult definition of disability ~

have a **physical or mental impairment** or combination of impairments that **limit ability to work, preventing you from earning "Substantial Gainful Activity"** (\$1,470 per month if you're not blind), and **condition has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months.**

SSI Eligibility when Turning 18

Possible results of the Age-18 Redetermination

If the young person's disability does not meet Social Security's adult definition of disability, then they will receive SSI benefits for 2 months, but then they will end.

2 options to continue receiving SSI:

1. **Appeal** within **10 days** of receiving the termination letter and ask that SSI payments continue until a decision is made.
2. Apply to continue benefits through Social Security **Work Incentive Section 301**

The young person is participating in a SS approved employment support program (i.e. Work Incentives) like Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), or any other program approved by Social Security that will help them get a good job in the future.

Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB) SSDI for Transition Age Youth

A disabled adult child is entitled to CDB based on the Social Security record of a parent only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. An application for CDB is filed;
2. Child meets the definition of “disabled” applicable to all social security disability insurance (SSDI) applicants;
3. The child is not married, or is married to a social security beneficiary;
4. The child is age 18 or older and under a disability which must have begun before age 22; and
5. The parent is entitled to social security disability insurance or retirement insurance benefits, or is deceased.

Social Security Work Incentives for SSI and SSDI

- Section 301- Cont'd payment under VR or Similar programs
- Ticket to Work
- Unsuccessful Work Attempts
- Impairment Related Work Expenses
- Plan to Achieve Self-Support
- Subsidies and Special Conditions
- Special Rules for People who are Blind
- Expedited Reinstatement

Social Security Work Incentives

SSI Only

- Earned Income Exclusion
- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Property Essential to Self-Support (PESS)
- Special SSI Payments for People Who Work – Section 1619(a)
- Medicaid While Working– Section 1619(b)
- Special Benefits for People Eligible Under Section 1619 (a) or (b) Who Enter a Medical Treatment Facility

SSDI Only

- Trial Work Period (TWP)
- Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- Unincurred Business Expenses (Self-Employment)
- Continuation of Medicare Coverage
- Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work

REMINDER!

For individuals who are working, it is important to report work timely to SSA to lessen the effects of overpayments. There are several ways to report wages to SSA: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/wage-reporting/>

Ticket to Work Program

TTW provides Social Security beneficiaries who want to work with access to free employment support services.

- Participants who choose to use their “Ticket” will receive services such as career counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement and training from authorized Ticket to Work service providers, such as Employment Networks (EN) or their state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency.
- Participants may not be subject to a continuing disability review while using their Ticket
- For more information on the Ticket Program, and to be mailed a list of approved ENs, call the **Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842** or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time

Social Security's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

WIPA projects are community-based organizations that receive grants from Social Security to provide SSI and SSDI beneficiaries, including youth in transition, free access to work incentives planning and assistance, i.e. Benefits Counseling.

- Each WIPA has counselors called Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC) who
 - Works with the beneficiary to help them understand their benefits,
 - Teach them when, how, and what to report to Social Security and other providers,
 - Provide in-depth, individualized counseling about their benefits and the effect of work on those benefits, and
 - Provide ongoing support and information as they transition to work.

Beneficiaries and service providers should first contact Social Security's Ticket to Work's Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) for a referral to the appropriate WIPA program.

Ohio Medicaid Buy In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD)

MBIWD is an Ohio Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to working Ohioans with disabilities. MBIWD was created to encourage Ohioans with disabilities to work and still keep their health care coverage.

To qualify for MBIWD, a person must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or meet citizenship requirements;
- Be a resident of Ohio;
- Be 16 to 64 years old;
- Have a disability as defined by the Social Security Administration (SSA) or be eligible under the MBIWD medically improved category;
 - currently get SSI or SSDI
 - If not, Ohio's Division of Disability Determination will check to see if your disability qualifies for MBIWD.
- Be employed in paid work (includes part-time and full-time work);
- Pay a premium (if applicable);
- Meet certain financial criteria

MBIWD Financial Criteria

Income and resources (e.g., cash, stocks, bonds) are used to determine eligibility for MBIWD. The following financial criteria must be met for MBIWD:

- After income deductions, the applicant's annual income must be less than or equal to 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL);
- Resources must not exceed \$14,318 (This resource limit is adjusted annually.)

Applicants with annual income greater than 250% of federal poverty level should still apply for MBIWD because certain deductions are given. (Anyone applying for MBIWD should consult a Benefits Counselor first.)

For more information check out the MBIWD Game Board online:

https://ohioemploymentfirst.org/up_doc/MBIWDDDecisionGameBoard2023.pdf

Disability Benefits 101 website on MBIWD online:

https://oh.db101.org/oh/programs/health_coverage/how_health/program_2b.htm.

How DRO Can Help Social Security Beneficiaries

Under DRO's **Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)** grant, we can:

- Provide information and advocacy to beneficiaries still eligible under IDEA related to school-based transition planning for employment
- Provide short-term assistance, including legal information and referrals, for disputes with the Social Security Administration involving overpayments that are work-related and that are a barrier in securing, maintaining, or regaining employment.
- Provide short-term assistance and advice, information and referrals, and self-advocacy materials on Social Security's Work Incentives

How DRO Can Help Social Security Beneficiaries

DRO's **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)** grant

- CWICs provide individualized counseling to help people use these work incentives and understand their impact on the person's employment.
- Services 31 of Ohio's 88 counties: Allen, Ashtabula, Auglaize, Cuyahoga, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Geauga, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Medina, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Portage, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood.

How DRO Can Help Social Security Beneficiaries

DRO'S **Representative Payee Review program** provides a number of services including:

- **Assisting representative payees** in not only performing their duties in accordance with the Social Security Administration guidelines but also in understanding what their obligations are to the person they are serving.
- **Reviewing financial records** the representative payees use to keep track of the Social Security benefits to ensure no issues are present.
- **Speaking in depth** with the representative payee as well as the beneficiary about the payeeship to address any concerns or issues they may have.
- **Making needed outside referrals** if other issues or needs are uncovered during the review process.
- **Ensuring any issues found are addressed** through the appropriate agencies.

How does DRO get cases to review?

- The Social Security Administration assigns some review cases to us. These may be random monitoring cases, or they may be cases that have given the SSA cause for concern.
- We can also complete a review if a DRO staff member uncovers a concern while working with a client or when we receive a tip from the community. If you have knowledge of a representative payee who may be abusing or neglecting their responsibilities or their beneficiary, please **contact our intake department** so the Representative Payee Review team can look into the matter further.

Resources

DRO website has resources organized by disability topic:

<http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/resource-center>

- Employment (Guide to VR services)
- Special Education
- Benefits Counseling
- Representative Payee Program

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/DisabilityRightsOhio

Follow us on Twitter: @DisabilityRtsOH

Join our email list: <http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/newsletter>

How to Contact DRO

- Call DRO at 1-800-282-9181 (option 2 for intake)
- Fill out DRO's web intake form at:
<https://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/intake-form>
- Write to DRO at: 200 Civic Center Dr., Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43215

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QUESTIONS?

