

**For more information on the  
Benefits Planning Program, contact:**

**Benefits Specialist**

DRS/Bureau of Field Services  
100 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9429

**217-558-6326** (Voice)

**866-864-2149** (TTY)

**312-957-4881** (VP)

or visit our website at  
**[drs.illinois.gov/success](http://drs.illinois.gov/success)**

*A large print or Braille translation of this  
pamphlet will be provided upon request.*

Laura didn't have any  
work experience and  
struggled on SSI  
benefits. After working  
with the Benefits  
Planning Program, Laura  
explained, "Having the  
benefits analysis helped  
me feel secure in  
making the decision to  
go to work and be  
where I am at today."

**Laura W.**  
Office Support Personnel



**For more information:**

**Call or visit your local Illinois  
Department of Human Services office**

If you have questions about any Illinois  
Department of Human Services (IDHS)  
program, call or visit your local IDHS office  
and we will answer your questions. If you do  
not know where your local IDHS office is or  
if you are unable to go there, you may call  
the automated helpline 24 hours a day at:

**1-800-843-6154**

1-800-447-6404 (TTY)

You may speak to a representative between:

**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Monday - Friday** (except state holidays)

You may also submit your questions  
in writing to:

**Illinois Department of Human Services**  
Office of Customer and Support Services  
100 South Grand Avenue East, 2nd floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62762

Visit our website at:

**[www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us)**



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opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable  
accommodation programs.

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State of Illinois  
Department of Human Services

# Benefits Planning Program

*Helping you understand  
how your benefits will be  
affected by working*



# Benefits Planning Program

## What is the Benefits Planning Program?

We are a state funded program created to help individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits (SSI/SSDI) make informed choices about going to work.

If you are interested in getting a job, we will help you understand how working will affect your benefits.

We will explain Social Security work incentives in addition to state benefits, such as Medicaid, housing and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Our Benefits Planning Program will give you the information you need to make the best choice about your future.



## Who is eligible?

Anyone who gets SSI/SSDI and wants to return to work is eligible to get free benefits planning services.

### We can:

- Explain how ALL of your benefits will be affected if you go to work. These benefits include SSI/SSDI, subsidized housing, SNAP, welfare benefits, Medicaid and Medicare;
- Give you a written report that shows how earnings from your job will change your benefits;
- Tell you about other community services that can help you;
- Be available to answer any questions you have about your benefits, even after you go to work;
- Provide ongoing benefits management, which can include a new analysis if you get a raise; and
- Make a referral to help you resolve any legal barriers related to employment, such as employer accommodations that will help you do your job.

Through a sign language interpreter and infectious smile, Will explains that with the assistance of the Benefits Planning Program and many people working together, he was able to persevere and land a full time job with benefits!

**Will B.** Custodian



As an administrative assistant in a law office, Elizabeth has overcome obstacles related to her disability (Fibromyalgia) and obtained health benefits with the assistance of the Benefits Planning Program and a benefits analysis.

**Elizabeth E.**  
Administrative Assistant

