* TODAY IS THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 2017.
* PLEASE STAND BY, YOUR WEBINAR WILL BEGIN IN A FEW MINUTES. PLEASE REMAIN CONNECTED. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE.
* .
* >> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD FOR TODAY'S ALL EN CALL. WE WILL BE [KWR-UPBDZ/] WAY IN APPROXIMATELY TWO MINUTES. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN HOLDING AND PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAY ON THE LINE PLEASE STAND BY, WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN. GOOD DAY AND WELCOME TO THE QUARTERLY ALL EMPLOYMENT NETWORK CALL. TODAY'S CONFERENCE IS BEING RECORDED. AT THIS TIME I'D LIKE TO TURN THE CONFERENCE OVER TO CAROL COLLINS. PLEASE GO AHEAD, MA'AM.
* >> YES, HELLO, EVERYBODY, AND WELCOME. WE'RE SO PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US. WE KNOW THIS IS WILL A VERY INFORMATIVE AND VERY INTERESTING JOINT CALL SO WE'RE SO GLAD THAT THE EN'S HAVE TAKEN A BIT OF TIME OUT OF THEIR VERY BUSY DAYS AND JOINED US.
* WITH THAT I AM ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE MY COLLEAGUE, THE WONDERFUL TOM HALE, WHO IS AN ECONOMIST WITH THE POLICY OFFICE AND HE'S GOING TO DISCUSS WITH US A PARTICULAR DEMONSTRATION AND YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT WE ENGAGE IN DEMONSTRATIONS TO INFORM POLICY AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER IN FACT CERTAIN APPLICATIONS OR CERTAIN USES OR MANIPULATIONS, I SHOULD SAY, OF BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES WILL IMPROVE THE WAY WE DO RETURN TO WORK.
* >> MY NAME IS TOM HALE, AS CAROL MENTIONED, I'M AN ECONOMIST FOR THE COTAR HER MAIN JOB IS TO CHECK TO SEE IF I'M STILL BREATHING EVERY DAY.
* >> SO FAR, SO GOOD.
* >> IT'S A GOOD THING.
* >> BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, WE AWARD THIS CONTRACT TO A COMPANY NAMED WESTED BACK IN 2016, AUGUST, AND THE PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE FOR THIS CONTRACT RUNS FROM AUGUST TO AUGUST 22. WE'RE BASICALLY GOING TO EVALUATE WHETHER OR NOT OFFERING THESE EVIDENCE-BASED PACKAGE OF INTEGRATED VOCATIONAL MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES WILL GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK, CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR SELF-SUFFICIENCY, RESULT IN SOMEWHAT IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THEY GET SOME INDEPENDENCE.
* I'M ON SLIDE 5, I'LL BE BETTER ABOUT MY PROTOCOL WHICH I'VE FORGOTTEN ALREADY.
* BASICALLY WE HAVE A SET OF INTERVENTIONS TO GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK AND THIS SLIDE LAYS OUT WHAT THEY ARE. THE FIRST MAJOR ONE IS LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT SERVICES BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT MODEL. THIS IS THE ONLY EVIDENCE-BASED RETURN TO WORK EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT MODEL OUT THERE. THERE'S SEVERAL OTHERS, LIKE ARE YOU READY, WHEN PEOPLE SAY THEY ARE READY, BUT THIS ONE THERE'S A REGULAR SET OF PROTOCOLS FOR THIS. IT'S BEEN TESTED IN PROBABLY 30 INDEPENDENT TESTS, INCLUDING OUR OWN, WHICH WE DID. THE IPS, INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDE JOB PLACEMENT AND PRE AND POST PLACEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES. THESE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT MANAGERS, I GUESS YOU'D CALL THEM, THEY ARE KIND OF LIKE JOB COUNSELORS, THEY ALREADY HAVE STRONG EMPLOYER CONTACTS IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE CAPACITY TO PLACE PARTICIPANTS IN THESE JOBS. WE'RE GOING TO BE IN 30 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SITES AND THESE PLACES WERE SELECTED BECAUSE OF THEIR FIDELITY TO THE PROTOCOL. THERE'S A COUPLE OTHER INTERVENTIONS THAT THEY [PR-PBTD/].
* THE HEALTH RELATED TREATMENTS INCLUDE HEALTH RELATED SERVICES, INTEGRATED MEDICATION MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT CARE SERVICES. AND WITHOUT GETTING INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL, BASICALLY WE WILL BUY WHATEVER A PERSON NEEDS TO GET BACK TO WORK. A LOT OF THESE FOLKS PERHAPS DON'T HAVE FRONT TEETH, WE'LL GIVE THEM TEETH. DENTURES, GLASSES, TRAINING, WHATEVER CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO HELP GET THEM BACK TO WORK. THE POINT IS OF COURSE IT'S THE HUMANE THING TO DO BUT WE KNOW PEOPLE NEED THESE THINGNESS PLACE IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN A JOB SEARCH, PARTICULARLY THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE.
* THE POPULATION INCLUDES A GROUP OF PEOPLE -- I'M NOT GOING TO READ THE SLIDE TO YOU -- THEY ARE BASICALLY PEOPLE WHO WERE DENIED APPLICANTS. THEY APPLIED FOR SSI, SSDI ON THE BASIS OF MENTAL IMPAIRMENT AND THEY WERE DENIED. THEY WERE DENIED VERY OFTEN BECAUSE THEIR CONDITION WASN'T SUFFICIENTLY SEVERE AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS IN A CASE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA. SOME OF THEM WERE DENIED BECAUSE THEY WERE WORKING ABOVE SGA AND WE WANTED TO TEST THAT BECAUSE THE POINT HERE IS NOT ONLY TO GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK WHO EITHER NEVER WORKED BEFORE OR HAD TO LEAVE THE LABOR FORCE, BUT I THINK THERE'S A BIGGER GOAL THAN THAT, AND IT'S SUSTAINING EMPLOYMENT. IF YOU GET SOMEONE WORKING ABOVE SGA, THEY WERE DENIED BENEFITS BECAUSE OF THAT, WE KNOW EARNINGS ARE EPISODIC, BUT WE CAN GIVE THEM SUPPORT TO SUSTAIN EMPLOYMENT WHICH WE THINK IS IMPORTANT. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE GOING TO BE BETWEEN AGE 18 AND 50 TO APPLIED TO BENEFITS AND WE'LL GET THEIR NAME AND TRY TO RECRUIT THEM WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THEIR HAVING BEEN DENIED BENEFITS. IF THEY JUST LEFT THE LABOR FORCE, IF THOUGH STILL HAVE SOME MARGINAL [OFF MIC] THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF KEEPING THEM IN.
* RECRUITMENT BEGAN IN OCTOBER, IT ACTUALLY BEGAN JUST TWO DAYS AGO, THE SLIDES ARE A BIT DATED. BUT BY RECRUITMENT WHAT WE MEAN IS THE LETTERS GO OUT INVITING PEOPLE TO ATTEND A MEETING WHERE WE WILL TELL THEM ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATION.
* WE'RE GOING TO ENROLL 3,000 PEOPLE IN 3 GROUPS. THERE ARE TWO TREATMENT AGREEMENTS AND ONE CONTROL GROUP SO THERE'S 3,000 PEOPLE, THIRD MENTAL HEALTH SITES, SITES UP AND RUNNING AND DOING THEIR THING AND SSA'S CONTRACT WITH WESTED ENGAGED IN SUBCONTRACTS WITH THESE SITES TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES AND WE'RE PAYING THEM ON AN ANNUAL BASIS TO PARTICIPATE. FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE SYSTEMATIC MEDICATION MANAGEMENT, OUR PARTICIPANTS AUTOMATICALLY BUY INTO SYSTEMATIC MED MOUNTAIN. WE WILL GIVE THEM A PSYCHIATRIST IF THEY DON'T HAVE ONE.
* A PREVIOUS STUDY WE CONDUCTED, I GUESS I DON'T HAVE THIS ON A SLIDE, WAS CALLED THE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT STUDY. IT WAS BASICALLY THE SAME STUDY BUT THESE ARE ALL PEOPLE WHO WERE [OFF MIC] SCHIZOPHRENIA, [OFF MIC] BUT WE DON'T THINK WE GOT THEM EARLY ENOUGH. FOR INSTANCE, WE WANT PEOPLE TO BE ON MEDICARE SO WE [WO-PBTD/] [-P/] HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR INSURANCE AND THERE'S A TWO YEAR WAITING PERIOD. IN SOME CASES PEOPLE WERE ALREADY ON THE ROLLS FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE WE RECRUITED THEM AND BY THEN THEY HAVE LOST THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOR FORCE. WE KNOW FULL AND WELL THEY ARE GOING TO GO BACK AND REAPPLY, IN FACT WE HAVE BENEFIT COUNSELORS TRAINED BY THIS VERY OFFICE WHO WILL TELL THEM YOU NEED TO GO BACK AND REAPPLY. IF THEY REAPPLY THEY WILL BE FOR YOU, THE EN'S.
* BY THE WAY, I MIGHT MENTION FOR THE SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT STUDY THERE ARE 30 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SITES, TWO OF THEM ARE ALREADY EN'S. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE ON THE CALL OR NOT, BUT WE'RE TALKING TO THIS OFFICE AND FINDING OUT WHETHER OR NOT IT'S AN ERSTWHILE THING FOR THE OTHER SITES TO BECOME EN'S. THIS OFFICE CAME AND BRIEFED MY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SITES AND ALL 23 SIGNED UP TO BE EN'S AND THEY ARE EN'S TO THIS DAY.
* THE CATCHMENT AREA, WHERE WE'RE TAKING OUR PEOPLE FROM, LIVE AROUND THESE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SITES. BASICALLY WE SENT THE ZIP CODES OUT TO THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE RECENTLY DENIED, THEY ARE ABLE TO MATCH THEM UP WITH LIKE A RING AROUND THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SITE, THOSE ZIP CODES, AND WE START DRAWING PEOPLE FROM AS CLOSE TO THE SITE AS WE CAN SO TRAVEL COSTS WILL BE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. PEOPLE ARE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO EITHER ONE OF TWO TREATMENT GROUPS OR THE CONTROL GROUP.
* THIS SLIDE SHOWS YOU WHAT THE TREATMENT GROUPS ARE, THE 3 STUDY ARMS. WE HAVE THE USUAL SERVICES WHICH IS THE CONTROL GROUP, SO WE BASICALLY, IT'S KIND OF A -- I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT KIND OF AN ODD THING. WE BRING PEOPLE INTO THE RECRUITMENT MEETING, WE TELL THEM HERE'S WHAT YOU COULD GET, YOU COULD GET TEETH, GLASSES, TRAINING, WHATEVER YOU NEED, UNLESS YOU ARE IN THE CONTROL GROUP, IN WHICH CASE WE WILL GIVE YOU THIS LITTLE PAMPHLET AND THAT'S WHERE YOU CAN GO GET HELP YOURSELF.
* REALLY PEOPLE ARE VERY BRAVE TO DO THIS. THEY WILL SAY, OKAY, I'LL GO THROUGH THIS RANDOMIZATION PROCESS AND IN THIS CASE A THIRD OF THEM AREN'T GOING TO GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE STUDY.
* SO WHY WOULD PEOPLE DO THAT? WE APPEAL TO THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE, FOR ONE THING, ALL THE PEOPLE BEHIND THEM THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A STUDY LIKE THIS. PEOPLE SHOW UP FOR QUARTERLY INTERVIEWS, LET US KNOW HOW THEY ARE DOING, IN FACT AT A HIGHER RATE THAN THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY. THEY GET A FEW BUCKS, IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH FOR ME TO GO.
* LET ME TELL YOU NOW ABOUT THE BASIC SERVICES. WE WANTED TO HAVE TWO TREATMENT ARMS TO PROVE OR DEMONSTRATE THAT WE COULD GET THE SAME RESULTS FOR ABOUT 2/3 THE MONEY. SO THIS BASIC SERVICES GROUP GETS BASIC TREATMENT AND SUPPORT. THAT'S THE MAIN INTERVENTION. THAT'S WHERE YOU START THINKING ABOUT A JOB RIGHT AWAY, WHAT KIND OF JOB YOU WANT, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO APPLY FOR A JOB UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO GET A JOB AND THEN WHATEVER YOU NEED ONCE YOU GET IT. SO THEY GET THAT. AND THEY GET THIS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT RELATED SERVICES AND THAT'S THE BUSINESS OF IF YOU NEED THE GLASSES, THE LICENSE, THE TRAINING, YOU WILL GET THAT AS WELL, BUT NOTHING ELSE.
* THE FULL SERVICES TREATMENT ARM GETS THE [S-FRLS/]S OF A NURSE CARE COORDINATOR. THE NURSE CARE COORDINATOR COORDINATES THE TREATMENTS OF THE PARTICIPATE [PA-PT/]S. IF YOU'VE BEEN IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, THE PSYCHIATRIST WILL SAY ONE THING THAT NOBODY AT THE HEALTH SITE REALLY UNDERSTANDS THEN YOU GET A DOC FOR THE PHYSICAL SERVICES AND YOU HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM. AND THE PSYCHIATRIST DOESN'T TALK TO THE DOC FOR THE PHYSICAL SERVICES. THE NURSE COORDINATOR COORDINATES ALL THAT STUFF, INCLUDING COORDINATION WITH THE COMMUNITY STAFF, AND SSA IS PAYING FOR THAT POSITION.
* SYSTEMATIC MEDICATION MANAGEMENT, FOR MANY PEOPLE WITH A PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER, HE WRITES OUT A PRESCRIPTION AND IT DOESN'T WORK. THEY DON'T KEEP TRACK AND THEY DON'T SYSTEMATICKALLY KNOW WHAT DRUGS THEY NEED, WHAT THE PROTOCOL IS FOR WHAT THE SEQUENCE OF DRUGS IS AND WHAT THE DOSAGE IS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. THERE ARE PROTOCOLS FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA, BIPOLAR, AFFECTIVE DISORDER AND PROBABLY BY NOW SEVERAL OTHER MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS, WHAT DRUGS DO YOU TAKE WHEN AND WHAT FAILS AND WHAT'S THE DOSAGE.
* THEN OF COURSE WE'RE GETTING ASSISTANCE WITH BEHAVIOR RELATED HEALTH, THE LICENSE, THE TRAINING, THE TEETH, THE GLASSES, WHATEVER YOU NEED TO GET A JOB.
* SOMETHING ELSE HAS HAPPENED TO THIS, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, SUBSIDIES WERE REMOVED. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO DENIED FOR BENEFITS AND THEN WERE DENIED AND ONLY A SMALL SLICE WERE DENIED BECAUSE THEY WERE WORKING ABOVE SGA SO THEY DO HAVE A MENTAL IMPAIRMENT. ONE THING THAT COULD COME OUT OF THIS IS YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD THIS BUT YOU DON'T. THEY HAVE A MENTAL IMPAIRMENT AND LIKELY IT WILL GET WORSE DOWN THE ROAD. SO WHAT WE THOUGHT IS A LOT OF THEM WOULD COME IN WITHOUT INSURANCE. SO WE PUT IN THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT THAT WE WOULD BUY INSURANCE FOR THEM. THEN WE FOUND THE INSURANCE YOU BUY OUTSIDE THE OPEN WINDOW LIKELY DOESN'T COVER PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS AND THE INSURANCE WE BUY FOR THEM DOESN'T DO IT FOR THEM. SO WE'RE REIMBURSING EXPENSES, WE SEND THEM TO THESE CLINICS WHERE YOU HAVE A SLIDING SCALE BASED ON WHAT YOUR INCOME IS AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WILL PAY WHATEVER THAT CLINIC IS CHARGING. WE WILL NEGOTIATE CHEAPER RATES FOR THESE CLINICS, THE FACT SSA IS PAYING STILL MEANS IF THE PERSON IS LIVING 134 PERCENT ABOVE THE POVERTY LEVEL THEY WILL STILL GET THE SLIDING SCALE.
* FINALLY THE TIMELINE, THE TIMELINE, IT'S A FIRST YEAR WE STAND UP THE DEMO, WE HAD TO MAKE CONTRACTS, ESTABLISH PROVIDER NETWORKS. WE HAVE THESE COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANUALS THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND AVAILABLE ONLINE AS WELL WHERE WE CONTACT THESE 30 COMMUNITY HEALTH SITES AND ASK THEM TO DRAW UP A LIST FOR ALL THE SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE IN THAT AREA. THAT IS ONE THING THE CONTROL GROUP GETS, THEY GET A LIST OF THAT. WE ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFYING WHICH SITES WE ARE AT, THE MAIN REASON IS WE DON'T WANT PEOPLE FROM THE CONTROL GROUP TO WALK INTO ONE OF OUR SITES AND ASK FOR THE SERVICES WE ARE PROVIDING FOR OUR TREATMENT GROUP BECAUSE THAT WOULD CONTAMINATE THE STUDY. WE WILL SAY WE'RE IN CITY CITY, WE'RE IN NEW YORK CITY, WE'RE IN [PWA-UFT/] BOSTON, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO IDENTIFY THE SIDES BEYOND THAT.
* THE DATA COLLECTION THERE'S AN INITIAL SURVEY AND THERE'S QUARTERLY INTERVIEWS FOR THE LENGTH OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY, INCLUDING THE CONTROL GROUP. THAT'S WHERE THE MEAT OF OUR DATA COMES FROM INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF.
* 17 AND 80 CONTRACTS ARE ESTABLISHED, THEY ARE DONE, ALL THE CONTRACTS ARE IN PLACE AND ALL THE SITES ARE UP AND RUNNING AND WE STARTED RECRUITMENT JUST LAST WEEK, MEANING WE SENT OUT THE LETTERS. WE ARE DOING AN EARLY ASSESSMENT REPORT AFTER THE FIRST YEAR WHERE WE'VE GOT IMPLEMENTATION. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE 30 SITES TO BE DOING THINGS IN PRETTY MUCH THE SAME WAY BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT THE VARIABILITY OF ONE SITE DOING IT DIFFERENTLY TO CONFUSE OR CONFOUND THE RESULTS. THIS SITE GOT MORE EMPLOYMENT THAN ANOTHER ONE, IS IT BECAUSE THEY DID THINGS DIFFERENTLY? NO, WE WANT EVERYBODY TO DO THINGS THE SAME WAY. SO WE WILL HAVE THIS MEETING WITH THE SITE MANAGERS, I GUESS YOU'D CALL THEM, FOLLOWING THIS EARLY ASSESSMENT PROJECT.
* 18 THROUGH 20 IS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY OF THE SERVICES, WE HAVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WE HAVE ALL KINDS OF TRAINING. ONE OF THE TRAINING, FOR INSTANCE, THERE'S A SMART PHONE APPLICATION, IT'S GEARED TO PEOPLE WHO ARE USING THE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT, IT REMINDS OUR PARTICIPANTS OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS BUT IT ALSO DOES THINGS LIKE TELLS THEM HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE ON THE JOB. IT'S A PRETTY COOL APP AND I SHOULD MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO YOU FOLKS, FOR ALL OF US, YOU KNOW?
* THAT'S BASICALLY IT. AT THE END OF THE PROJECT WE'LL GIVE PEOPLE A TRANSITION PLAN. ONE OF THE THINGS FOR INSTANCE THAT HAPPENED IN THE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT STUDY, YOU KNOW HOW THE PHARMACEUTICAL OFFICES WILL WALK INTO THE PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE AND LOAD UP THE SHELVES WITH WHAT THEY WANT TO SELL. ONE OF THEM WAS ABILIFY AND THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS YOU CUT A PERSON'S PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS OFF, THEY MIGHT GET SUICIDAL. CVS ROLLED BACK THAT RULE SO THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PAY FOR THE ABILIFY
* THAT'S BASICALLY MY SYNOPSIS OF THE SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT DEMO SO I'D LIKE TO OPEN IT UP TO QUESTIONS IF I MAY.
* >> THAT'S GREAT, TOM, AND WHILE WE ARE COMPILING THAT LIST FOR QUESTIONS, THERE IS ONE IN THE CHAT. IS IT PUBLIC INFORMATION TO KNOW WHERE THE 30 SITES ARE LOCATED FOR SED
* >> WE'RE NOT IDENTIFYING WHERE THE SPECIFIC SITES ARE BECAUSE, AS I SAID, WE DON'T WANT PEOPLE FROM THE CONTROL GROUP WALKING INTO ONE OF OUR SITES AND ASKING FOR THE SAME SERVICES WE'RE GIVING THE TREATMENT GROUP BECAUSE IT WOULD CONFOUND THE STUDY BUT WE DO IDENTIFY WHAT TOWNS THEY ARE IN. I'VE FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY AND COINCIDENTALLY THERE'S LIKE 4 SITES. THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IS NOW A SITE. BUT THAT'S THE REASON WE'RE NOT IDENTIFYING THE SPECIFIC SITES.
* BY THE WAY, AS YOU GO ON TO SSA'S WEB PAGE, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, JUST GOOGLE SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND THE WEB SITE WILL COME UP AND IDENTIFY THE TOWNS THAT THE STUDY IS GOING TO BE IN -- THE CITIES. WELL, IN MY CASE, IT'S THE TOWN, THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON. TOWNS AIN'T SO BAD BUT MOST OF THESE TOWNS HAVE -- OH, THAT'S ALL IT IS? WELL, THE TOWNS ARE AVAILABLE, WE CAN PROBABLY GET THAT, BUT NOT THE SPECIFIC SITE. I'M CURIOUS IF -- IT'S DIFFICULT TO ASK QUESTIONS. I WONDER IF THE TWO SITES THAT ARE IN OUR STUDY THAT ARE EN'S ARE IN ON THE PHONE CALL. TWO OF OUR SITES CURRENTLY ARE EN'S. I WASN'T ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM DIRECTLY TO TELL THEM ABOUT THIS CALL.
* >> OKAY, WE'LL BE SURE TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAIL THE. BETHANY, HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO QUEUE UP ANY QUESTIONS FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS TODAY?
* >> NOT AT THIS TIME BUT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THAT IS STAR 1 TO ASK A QUESTION OVER THE PHONES .
* >> I DID SEE THAT DEB DID POST A QUESTION ABOUT THE WEB SITE LINK AND JOHN HAS GRACIOUSLY POSTED THAT. THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION.
* >> THERE IS ALSO AN INTRANET PAGE IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN THAT AS WELL.
* >> WHAT WE'LL DO AT THIS TIME IS THANK YOU SO MUCH, JOHN, THAT WAS WONDERFUL INFORMATION. IF ANY QUESTIONS COME UP LATER WE WILL GATHER THOSE AND SEND THEM OVER AND POST THEM TO THE CALL.
* >> IT WOULD BE NICE TO GET BACK TO THIS GROUP IN A YEAR OR SO AND LET YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES. THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYBODY. BYE-BYE.
* >> CAROL, I WILL HAND IT OVER TO YOU . HI, CAROL. NO WORRIES. I WILL GO AHEAD AND HAND THE CALL OVER FOR THE NEXT SECTION AND THIS WILL BE ABOUT WORK INCENTIVE PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE AND I WILL HAND IT OVER TO MARGERY.
* >> THANK YOU, ADELLE. HI, EVERYBODY, MY NAME IS MARGERY MCIVER AND I AM A PROJECT COORDINATOR HERE IN THE OFFICE OF OUTREACH SUPPORT AND TODAY WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS ON WORK INCENTIVE PLANNING WHICH WE REFER TO AS WIPAS.
* I'M GOING TO START THE DISCUSSION AND ABOUT HALFWAY THROUGH I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO MY COLLEAGUE, TERRY UTTERMOHLEN, WHO WILL ALSO PROSIDE SOME INFORMATION AND THEN BE AVAILABLE FOR SOME QUESTIONS. WE KNOW THAT MOST OF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE WIPA PROGRAM, BUT WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA OF WHERE WIPA FITS IN TO THE SERVICE SYSTEM, WHEN IT'S APPROPRIATE TO REFER BENEFICIARIES TO A WIPA PROGRAM AND THE BEST WAY TO MAKE THAT REFERRAL.
* SO WE ALSO WANT TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT WORK REPORTS YOU MAKE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT BENEFICIARIES HAVE TO REPORT WORK TO SOCIAL SECURITY. AND FINALLY WE WILL GIVE YOU SOME RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HOW YOU MIGHT BETTER INCORPORATE WORK INCENTIVE COUNSELING INTO THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDE.
* SO PO106-170, WHEN THE TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVE ACT PASSED, THE LAW FOCUSED NOT ONLY ON THE TICKET PROGRAM BUT ALSO ON OTHER PROVISIONS THAT GIVE IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO WORKING BENEFICIARIES. SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE PROVISIONS --
* >> MARGERY, I AM SO SORRY, I WAS DISCONNECTED. THE OPERATOR JUST RECONNECTED ME. I APOLOGIZE.
* >> NO PROBLEM. YOU ALWAYS DO A GOOD JOB OF INTRODUCING ME.
* >> WHEN YOU AND TERRY FINISH I WILL MAKE A COUPLE COMMENTS.
* >> EXAMPLES OF THESE PROVISIONS INCLUDE LENGTHENING EXTENDED MEDICARE, ALLOWING STATES TO BROADEN OPPORTUNITIES TO PURCHASE MEDICAID FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THE AUTHORITY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY TO OPERATE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, EXPEDITED REINSTATEMENT AND ACCESS TO FREE ADVOCACY THROUGH THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS AND A VARIETY OF OPTIONS THROUGH TICKET TO WORK. BENEFITS RECEIVES BENEFITS BASED ON DISABILITY CAN ACCESS SOCIAL SECURITY WORK INCENTIVE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE USING A TICKET OR HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED A TICKET.
* AS YOU CAN SEE THE ACT INCLUDED NOT ONLY THE TICKET PROGRAM, BUT SO MUCH MORE. SO IN THE FOCUS OF TODAY'S CALL IS ACTUALLY ON SECTION 1149 OF THE ACT. THIS CREATED THE WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, OR WIPA. WE DO THIS THROUGH A TYPE OF GRANT KNOWN AS A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT. THE GOAL OF THE WIPA PROGRAM IS TO ENABLE BENEFICIARIES WITH DIS[PWAO-ELT/]S TO RECEIVE ACCURATE INFORMATION SO THEY CAN PLAN AND MAKE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO WORK. WIPAS PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT WORK AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO BENEFICIARIES GOING TO WORK. AS YOU ALL KNOW INFORMATION IS KEY TO THIS WHOLE BACK TO WORK PROCESS.
* PURPOSE OF WIPA. I KNOW THE PEOPLE ON THIS CALL KNOW THAT GOING TO WORK CAN BE VERY SCARY PROPOSITION FOR A BENEFICIARY. OUR PROGRAMS AND RULES CAN BE CONFUSING, NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE TWO DIFFERENT PROGRAMS, SO WHILE WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE BENEFICIARIES TO RETURN TO WORK IT CAN BE VERY COMPLICATED. THE GOAL OF THE WIPA PROGRAM IS TO ENABLE BENEFICIARIES WITH DISABILITIES TO RECEIVE ACCURATE INFORMATION. WIPAS PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT WORK INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS TO HELP BENEFICIARIES GOING TO WORK. A CRITICAL PART OF THE COUNSELING WIPA PROVIDES IS A COMPREHENSIVAGE ANALYSIS. CWICS DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT THE EFFECT OF WORK ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT, THEY LOOK AT ALL THE BENEFITS A PERSON RECEIVES, AND DISCUSS HOW WORK WILL IMPACT ALL OF THEM. SO IT'S VERY BIG PICTURE.
* ADDITIONALLY THEY ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR SERVICES AND SUPPORTS A PERSON MAY NEED THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE YET ACCESSED. THEY ALSO REFER PEOPLE TO STATE VOCATIONAL REHAB AGENCIES AND JOINT EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. IF LOSING A BENEFIT, WHETHER IT'S HOUSING OR FOOD STAMPS IS A SURPRISE IT MAY DERAIL A WORK ATTEMPT AND IF AN INDIVIDUAL'S WORK INCOME MAKES THEM LOSE THEIR MEDICAID OR HOUSING SUBSIDY, THAT INDIVIDUAL MIGHT QUIT THEIR JOB AND THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN OVERPAYMENTS OCCUR.
* WIPA PROGRAMS. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 83 WIPA PROJECTS. THEY PROVIDE COVERAGE IN ALL STATES AND U.S. TERRITORIES. WIPA PROJECTS WERE CHOSEN THROUGH AN OPEN COMPETITION AND THE NEXT COMPETITION WILL BE IN 2020. WIPA PROJECTS COVER SPECIFIC SERVICE AREAS, THEY DON'T OVERLAP AND IT'S ALL BASED ON A BENEFICIARY'S ZIP CODE. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE WIPA IN YOUR AREA OR IF YOU ARE A NATIONAL AND SERVE LOTS OF DIFFERENT BENEFICIARIES IN DIFFERENT AREAS YOU CAN ALWAYS ACCESS THE WIPA THROUGH THE FIND HELP TOOL ON THE CHOOSE WORK WEB SITE. UNDER THE TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDER, JUST CLICK ON BENEFITS COUNSELING AND INPUT THE ZIP CODE.
* WIPA SERVICES ARE FREE TO THOSE THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT AND I'LL TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT IN A MINUTE. ALL WIPA STAFF MUST MEET SUITABILITY AND CWIC'S MUST UNDERGO A VERY RIGOROUS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS WHICH INCLUDES A 5 PERSON IN PERSON TRAINING FOLLOWED BY EXTENSIVE ONLINE TRAINING. IT USUALLY TAKES A LITTLE OVER A YEAR FOR A CWIC TO BECOME FULLY CERTIFIED.
* TICKETS TO WORK HELP LINE. I KNOW YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THAT. SO HOW ARE INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED TO THE WIPA? THE MOST COMMON WAY IS THROUGH THE TICKET TO WORK HELP LINE. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, MAXIMUS RUNS OUR TICKET TO WORK HELP LINE AND THE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS ARE NOT ONLY TRAINED HOW TO CONNECT SERVICE NETWORKS BUT ALSO TRAINED TO PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY AND OUR WORK INCENTIVES AND ARE TRAINED TO RECOGNIZE WHEN CALLERS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO WIPA. IF THE BENEFICIARY IS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING WIPA SERVICES AND IF THEIR SITUATION MEETS THE PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS FOR REFERRAL, THE HELP LINE WILL MAKE A SECURE REFERRAL TO THE SERVICING WIPA THROUGH THE WIPA NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM.
* WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR WIPA SERVICES? WELL, INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR WIPA MUST BE OVER 14 AND NOT YET FULL RETIREMENT AGE AND RECEIVING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS BASED ON THEIR OWN DISABILITY: SSDI INCLUDING CHILDHOOD DISABILITY BENEFITS, DISABLED WIDOWS BENEFITS, SSI BASED ON BLINDNESS OR DISABILITY, MEDICARE UNDER THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF MEDICARE COVERAGE OR MEDICAID CONTINUATION UNDER 1619 OR A STATE SUPPLEMENTAL SSI PAYMENT. SO IF YOU HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL 16 YEARS OLD, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO IS RECEIVING SURVIVORS BENEFITS ON A DECEASED PARENT'S RECORD, THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR WIPA BENEFITS. HOWEVER, IF THAT 16-YEAR-OLD WERE RECEIVING SSI BASED ON A DISABILITY THEY WOULD BE POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE.
* SO AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA IS LARGE AND UNFORTUNATELY WIPAS DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SERVE EVERYONE WHO MEETS THESE GUIDELINES. SO WE HAVE A PRIORITY PROTOCOL. THIS HELPS WIPAS PRIORITIZE SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO WORKING AND MOST VULNERABLE TO OVERPAYMENTS.
* SO THE PRIORITIES. THE FIRST ONE, BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE WORKING FULL-TIME OR SELF-EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OR ABOUT TO WORK FULL-TIME. THIS GROUP IS OUR NO. 1 PRIORITY AS THESE FOLKS ARE AT RISK FOR OVERPAYMENTS.
* NEXT, BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE SELF-EMPLOYED PART-TIME, WORKING FOR WAGES PART-TIME OR ABOUT TO START PART-TIME WORK. AGAIN, THIS IS A VULNERABLE GROUP FOR OVERPAYMENTS AND AS MANY OF YOU KNOW WHEN BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE OVERPAYMENTS THEY OFTEN DECIDE TO STOP WORKING.
* NEXT, BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE HAD A JOB INTERVIEW WITHIN 30 DAYS PRIOR OR HAVE A JOB INTERVIEW SCHEDULED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. ALTHOUGH THIS INDIVIDUAL IS NOT YET WORKING THEY ARE CLEARLY MOTIVATED AND INTERESTED IN WORKING AND WE WANT TO SUPPORT THEM.
* NEXT, TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH BETWEEN 18 AND 25 AT ANY STAGE ON THE WORK CONTINUUM. WE VIEW THIS POPULATION AS A GROUP WE REALLY NEED TO SUPPORT WITH CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT WORK AND HOW WORK CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT THEIR FUTURE. IF AN INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT MEET ONE OF THESE PRIORITIES THE HELP LINE WILL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THEY HAVE AND LET THEM KNOW THEY ARE WELCOME TO CALL BACK WHEN THEY ARE CLOSER TO BEGINNING WORK. IF AN INDIVIDUAL CALLS A WIPA DIRECTLY OR ANOTHER AGENCY REFERS, FOR EXAMPLE, AN EN, TO A WIPA, THE WIPA WILL PROVIDE SERVICES BASED ON THIS PRIORITY LIST AND WILL LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD RECONTACT IF THEIR STATUS CHANGES.
* SO AS WIPA WORKLOAD PERMITS, THE PROJECTS MAY ALSO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WHO FALL INTO A SECOND HALF OF THE PRIORITY LIST. THIS CONSISTS OF BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE INDICATED A STRONG INTEREST IN WORKING BUT WHO ARE NOT IN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR IN DEPTH INDIVIDUALIZED BENEFITS COUNSELING OR WHO ARE NOT AT RISK FOR IMMEDIATE OVERPAYMENT. WE WOULD LIKE TO SERVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN BUT AS YOU KNOW WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES. IF A WIPA IS ABLE TO SERVE SOMEONE IN THIS CATEGORY OR OTHER CATEGORIES, THEY WILL AND THEY WILL PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION REFERRAL RESOURCES IF THEY CAN, BUT THEY WILL USE THE PRIORITY LIST TO GOVERN WHO THEY SEE AND IN WHAT PRIORITY.
* AND NOW I'M GOING TO TURN THIS OVER TO TERRY UTTERMOHLEN. SHAWN, IF YOU CAN GO ON TO THE NEXT SLIDE.
* >> MARGERY IS LOOKING AT ME LIKE WHAT'S YOUR NAME? GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYBODY, I AM TERRY UTTERMOHLEN AND I AM, LIKE MARGERY, A PROJECT OFFICER WITH THE WIPA PROGRAM. THERE'S A FEW THINGS THAT I REALLY WANT TO YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS PRESENTATION THAT WE'RE GOING TO GET TO IN A SECOND, BUT, FIRST, WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE WIPA GETS THE REFERRAL? THAT'S A CRITICAL TIME POINT FOR THE BENEFICIARY BECAUSE THEY ARE CURIOUS AND IT'S RISKY, IT'S SCARY TO GO TO WORK. SO THEY CALL THE HELP LINE, PERHAPS, AND THE HELP LINE GIVES THEM INFORMATION BASED ON A SCRIPT THAT WE'VE DEVELOPED TO MAKE SURE THAT IT'S ACCURATE AND THAT THEY EXPLAIN WHAT A WIPA DOES AND ASK THE PERSON IF THEY WANT A REFERRAL TO THEIR LOCAL PROJECT. AND THE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FILLS OUT A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION AND SENDS IT VIA A SECURE SYSTEM TO THE WORK ASSISTANCE PROJECT THAT SERVES THAT PERSON.
* SO WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT REFERRAL? WELL, THE WIPA PROJECT GETS AN EMAIL THAT SAYS JOE SCHMIDT OR ACTUALLY SAYS, YOU HAVE A REFERRAL IN THIS SECURE SYSTEM AND THEN THEY LOOK UP AND THEY GO, OH, YEAH, JOE SCHMIDT WANTS SERVICES AND I'M GOING TO CALL THEM.
* LET'S SAY I'M A BENEFITS COUNSELOR, MY JOB IS TO SERVE YOU. SO I GET YOUR NAME AND YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER AND I GET ANY OF THE NOTES THE HELP LINE GAVE ME AND I CALL YOU AND I SAY, HEY, JOE, I'M REALLY GLAD TO HEAR YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING. LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BENEFITS YOU GET. AND THEY DO KIND OF AN ANALYSIS AT THAT MOMENT, NOT TELLING THEM HOW WORK AFFECTS THEIR BENEFITS OR TELLING THEM ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR BENEFITS, BUT KIND OF WHAT BENEFITS DOES THAT PERSON NEED? WHAT DO THEY HAVE ALREADY, WHAT DO WE NEED TO VERIFY AND WHAT WILL I EVENTUALLY NEED TO TELL THEM? AND THE EVENTUALLY IS REALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE BENEFITS COUNSELORS GIVE INFORMATION WITHOUT VERIFICATION.
* THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED WITH BENEFICIARIES FOR A LONG TIME REALIZE THEY MAY NOT KNOW WHAT THEY GET. A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THEY GET SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WHEN THEY GET SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION OR THEY GET SSI AND THEY JUST SAY THEY GET MONEY FROM SOCIAL SECURITY. THE BENEFITS COUNSELOR MAY NEED TO FIND OUT THINGS ABOUT HOUSING OR WHAT KIND OF FOOD STAMPS THEY GET OR OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES, FOR EXAMPLE, A MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM THAT MIGHT PROVIDE HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES TO HELP THAT PERSON STAY OUT OF A NURSING HOME.
* SO THE WORK INCENTIVES COUNSELOR, THE CWIC, COMMUNITY WORK INCENTIVE COORDINATOR, WILL SIT THERE AND TALK TO THE PERSON, GET TO KNOW THEM, ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP, FIND OUT WHAT THEIR SITUATION IS, FIND SERVICES THAT MIGHT HELP THEM, POSSIBLY REFER THEM TO EN'S IN THE COMMUNITY, POSSIBLY REFER THEM TO VR THEY VERIFY THE BENEFITS THEN WORK WITH THE PERSON TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE BENEFITS ARE AND ONCE THEY'VE DONE THAT, THEY WRITE AN ANALYSIS. AND THAT ANALYSIS IS DOCUMENTATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS COUNSELING THE PERSON RECEIVES. NOT EVERYBODY WHO GOES TO A WIPA GETS THIS LETTER, IT'S REALLY ONLY FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE A COMPLICATED SITUATION, ARE WORKING AND REALLY NEED THE INDIVIDUALIZED INFORMATION AND THE LETTER DOCUMENTS WHAT THE WORK INCENTIVES COORDINATOR TOLD THE PERSON AND ALSO ACTS AS A REFERENCE FOR THEM TO USE LATER.
* IF THE PERSON HAS A PARTICULARLY COMPLICATED SITUATION OR THEY NEED TO GET STUFF OR DO STUFF IN ORDER TO GET TO WORK, THE WORK INCENTIVES COUNSELOR WILL WORK WITH THE BENEFICIARY TO DEVELOP A WORK INCENTIVE PLAN. AND THAT'S JUST A TO-DO LIST. IT SAYS OKAY, AFTER YOU'VE WORKED FOR THIS MANY MONTHS YOU ARE GOING TO NEED TO GO TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND REPORT YOUR WAGES. OR YOU'VE SAID THAT YOU WANT TO CONTACT THIS EMPLOYMENT NETWORK, LET'S SET A DATE FOR YOU TO DO THAT SO THAT THE PERSON HAS IT WRITTEN OUT STEP BY STEP THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT NEED TO HAPPEN. AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME STEPS ON THERE FOR THE BENEFITS COUNSELOR TO RECONTACT THEM, TO GIVE THEM THE ANALYSIS, TO CHECK ON THEM AT CRITICAL TIME POINTS.
* THIS CAN BE A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP AND OFTEN IS. IF THE PERSON HAS A COMPLICATED BENEFITS SITUATION, THEY MAY NEED THAT WORK INCENTIVES COORDINATOR TO CALL THEM UP IN A COUPLE MONTHS AND SAY IT LOOKS TO ME FROM MY LIST HERE THAT IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO REPORT TO SOCIAL SECURITY, YOU ARE ALMOST AT THE END OF YOUR TRIAL WORK PERIOD. AND SO DO YOU NEED ME TO HELP YOU DO THAT, I JUST WANTED TO REMIND YOU, JUST WANTED TO CHECK IN ON YOU OR THE BENEFICIARY WILL CALL THE WORK INCENTIVES COORDINATOR WHEN SOMETHING COMES UP THAT'S CONFUSING OR A LITTLE SCARY OR THEY GET A LETTER. SO IT'S A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP TO SUPPORT THE PERSON AND KEEP THEM WORKING.
* AS MARGERY SAID, IT'S VERY, VERY LIKELY THAT PEOPLE GET OVERPAID WHEN THEY GO TO WORK IF THEY DON'T REPORT RIGHT AWAY, THOSE OVERPAYMENTS CAN BE HUGE. SO IT'S REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT THAT THEY GET THE SUPPORT THAT THEY NEED TO MAKE THE REPORTS THAT THEY NEED TO MAKE.
* SO LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT REPORTING. AS EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT TO US, TO OUR AGENCY, WHEN PEOPLE HAVE WAGES SO THAT YOU CAN GET PAID. REALLY -- THIS IS THE ONE THING, IF YOU TAKE NOTHING ELSE AWAY FROM THIS PHONE CALL, I WANT YOU ALL TO UNDERSTAND THAT THAT DOES NOT MEET THE BENEFICIARY'S REQUIREMENT TO REPORT. WE HAVE TO HAVE THE BENEFICIARY CONTACT US TO REPORT THAT THEY ARE WORKING.
* SOMETIMES, IF SOME SITUATIONS, THE WAGES THAT YOU GIVE US MIGHT TRIGGER US TO CONTACT THE BENEFICIARY BUT IT'S REALLY BETTER IF THE BENEFICIARY CONTACTS US. THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND THEY HAVE THE INFORMATION THAT WE NEED.
* IF THE PERSON IS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEIR BENEFITS CAN CONTINUE, WE HAVE TO DO A WORK REVIEW AND A WORK REVIEW IS A VERY DETAILED PROCESS THAT LOOKS AT WHAT THE PERSON EARNS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD SICK PAY -- LET'S SAY THE PERSON MAY HAVE $2,000 IN WAGES BUT IT WAS ALL VACATION TIME. THAT'S NOT SUBSTANTIAL WORK SO THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE MIGHT SAY, OOPS, THIS ISN'T PART OF ESTABLISHING A DECISION ABOUT HOW WORK WILL AFFECT YOUR BENEFITS. WE TAKE THAT AWAY.
* WE HAVE WORK INCENTIVES THAT WE CAN APPLY SUCH AS THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD, SUCH AS DEDUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS, WE CALL IT SUBSIDY BUT WHEN SOMEBODY, MAYBE THEY WORK FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR THEY -- I REMEMBER BACK MANY YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS A CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVE I HAD A YOUNG MAN WHO WAS REPORTING HIS WORK AND ESSENTIALLY HE JUST SWEPT THE FLOOR OF A BAR AND THE GUY HAD ANOTHER CLEANER WHO CAME IN AND ACTUALLY DID THE WORK. BUT HE GAVE THIS YOUNG MAN MONEY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO HELP HIM OUT AND IN THAT CASE THAT WORK DIDN'T AFFECT HIM, DIDN'T AFFECT HIS BENEFITS.
* SO IT'S A DECISION AND IT'S A DECISION MADE UP OF FACTORS. SAME THING ON SSI SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME DOESN'T JUST LOOK AT EARNS, WITH SSI YOU LOOK AT WHO IS A PERSON LIVING WITH? ARE THEY MARRIED? ARE THEY GETTING SUPPORT FROM SOMEBODY ELSE? SSI IS VERY SENSITIVE TO RESOURCES. HOW MUCH MONEY DOES THE PERSON HAVE IN THE BANK. THESE ARE DECISIONS THAT SOCIAL SECURITY HAS TO MAKE ABOUT THE PERSON'S EARNINGS.
* SO JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE REPORTING THE WAGES TO US, THAT'S HELPFUL AND IMPORTANT AND A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE TICKET PROGRAM , BUT IN ORDER FOR THE PERSON TO HAVE AN ACCURATE DECISION ABOUT THEIR BENEFITS THEY HAVE TO REPORT TO US AND WE HAVE TO GET THE RECEIPTS AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT WE NEED.
* ONE OF THE PIECES OF THE WORK REPORT THAT APPLIES TO BOTH SSI AND SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT AND WE WILL NOT KNOW EXISTS UNLESS THE BENEFICIARY TELLS US ARE IMPAIRMENT RELATED WORK EXPENSES. THOSE ARE GOODS OR SERVICES THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR WORK, THEY ARE PAID OUT OF POCKET, THEY ARE NOT REIMBURSED BY ANYBODY ELSE. THEY HAVE TO BE REASONABLE, THEY ARE PAID IN THE MONTH OF THE WORK AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM, WE CAN DEDUCT THE AMOUNT THAT THEY SPENT FOR THIS COST WHEN WE'RE DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT THE WORK IS SUBSTANTIAL. UNDER THE SSI PROGRAM IT LITERALLY AFFECTS HOW MUCH THE PERSON GETS PAID. WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THESE COSTS UNLESS THE PERSON REPORTS THEM AND ANYBODY HELPING THIS BENEFICIARY GO TO WORK, YOU WANT TO HELP THEM SAVE THOSE RECEIPTS, UNDERSTAND WHAT THE IMPAIRMENT RELATED WORK EXPENSES ARE, WHAT THEY COULD BE AND WHAT I'VE ALWAYS TOLD PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS IS WHEN IN DOUBT, IF YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR WORK, PAID OUT OF POCKET, RELATED TO AN IMPAIRMENT, BEING TREATED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, REASONABLE, AND PAID IN THE MONTH, OR IF IT'S NOT THE MONTH THE PERSON IS WORKING AND IT'S A DURABLE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY CAN PRORATE IT OVER A YEAR.
* SO THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE WANT WORK TO PAY BECAUSE IF WORK PAYS --
* >> PLEASE ENSURE YOUR LINES ARE ON MUTE.
* >> IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE HANG ON TO THOSE RECEIPTS, THAT THEY REPORT THE INFORMATION TO US ACCURATELY AND FULLY SO THEY CAN ACCESS THE WORK INCENTIVES. BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO STAY WORKING IF WORK PAYS AND THEY ARE GOING TO QUIT IF WORK DOESN'T PAY. IT'S JUST NATURAL. WE ALL WANT TO PAY OUR LIGHT BILL.
* UNDER THE SSI PROGRAM, ONLY THE SSI PROGRAM, THIS DOES NOT EXIST FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY WORLD, THERE IS A WORK INCENTIVE CALLED BLIND WORK EXPENSES. THESE ARE DIFFERENT FROM IMPAIRMENT RELATED WORK EXPENSES BECAUSE A PERSON WHO MEETS THE DEFINITION OF STATUTORY OR LEGAL BLINDNESS, SOCIAL SECURITY CAN DEDUCT ANYTHING, ANY EXPENSE , THAT THEY HAVE THAT'S RELATED TO WORK. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RELATED TO A DISABILITY. IT DOES HAVE TO BE REASONABLE. IT DOES HAVE TO BE NECESSARY FOR THE PERSON TO WORK, BUT IT CAN BE THINGS LIKE TAXIS AND UNION DUES AND CHILD CARE COSTS AND TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER THINGS THAT ARE NOT DEDUCTED AS IMPAIRMENT RELATED WORK EXPENSES. AGAIN, WE WANT WORK TO PAY SO PEOPLE WILL STAY WORKING. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT IF A PERSON IS BLIND THEY UNDERSTAND THESE ARE POSSIBLE DEDUCTIONS, BUT THIS ONLY APPLIES TO THE SSI PROGRAM. UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM, WHEN WE'RE DOING THOSE WORK DECISIONS THERE'S HIGHER EARNINGS LIMIT ALLOWED FOR BLIND PEOPLE BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE BLIND WORK EXPENSES.
* ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S REALLY CRITICAL FOR WORK REPORTS IS THAT BENEFICIARIES KEEP TRACK OF THEIR STUFF. AND BY THAT I MEAN THE RECEIPTS FOR EXPENSES, THEIR PAY STUBS, THEY SHOULD KEEP RECORDS OF WHO THEY REPORT WHAT TO -- WHO THEY TALKED TO. IF THEY CALL THE MEDICAID OFFICE TO REPORT THEIR EARNINGS AND THEY TALK TO -- I'M HAVING TROUBLE COMING UP WITH A DECREE ATIVE NAME -- CLARISSA, WE ALL KNOW CLARISSA SHE MAY NOT GIVE THEM THE RIGHT INFORMATION OR SHE MAY GIVE THEM THE RIGHT INFORMATION AND THEY DON'T REMEMBER IT. SO IT'S IMPORTANT FOR BENEFICIARIES TO KEEP A NOTEBOOK AND SAY I TALKED TO CLARISSA ON THIS DAY, THIS IS WHAT SHE TOLD ME AND THIS IS WHAT I TOLD HER. IF THEY KEEP THEIR PAY STUBS, ANY LETTERS FROM BENEFIT PROVIDERS, INCLUDING SOCIAL SECURITY, KEEP A NOTEBOOK, A CALENDAR. A LOT OF TIMES PEOPLE AREN'T THAT ORGANIZED BUT IT'S REALLY HELPFUL, WHEN THEY MAKE THE WORK REPORTS IF THEY HAVE THAT LEVEL OF DETAIL WHEN THEY COME TO US.
* MY WORD FOR THIS NEXT SLIDE, THESE ARE RESOURCES FOR YOU TO USE. I ORIGINALLY TITLED IT, DON'T DO THIS AT HOME BECAUSE I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO GUESS WHEN YOU GIVE INFORMATION TO BENEFICIARIES, DON'T GUESS ABOUT HOW WORK AFFECTS THEM. I'VE TALKED TO MANY BENEFICIARIES OVER THE YEARS WHO HAVE EITHER MISUNDERSTOOD OR BEEN GIVEN MISINFORMATION. THERE'S SOMETHING I CALL THE BUSH NETWORK, WHICH IS WHERE THEY STAND AND TALK TO THEIR NEIGHBORS NEXT DOOR OVER THE PRIVET HEDGE AND THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR BENEFITS AND WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW AND THEY TRUST THAT NEIGHBOR AND THE NEIGHBOR IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG AND STEERS THEM. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A CERTIFIED BENEFITS COUNSELOR ON STAFF OR YOU DON'T HAVE THE PERSON WHO IS NOT IN A SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE APPROPRIATE FOR A WIPA REFERRAL, USE OUR RESOURCES. OUR WEB SITE IS ACTUALLY ACCESSIBLE, IT'S GOOD, THERE'S A LOT OF REALLY GOOD PAMPHLETS. THE ONES THAT ARE ON HERE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE KIND OF MY GO-TO FOR PEOPLE. WORKING WHILE DISABLED, HOW WE CAN HELP. IF YOU ARE BLIND OR HAVE LOW VISION, HOW WE CAN HELP. THE RED BOOK IS A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT BOTH PROGRAMS AND THAT ONE I WOULDN'T PASS OUT ALL THE TIME. I WOULD PASS OUT WORKING WHILE DISABLED MORE.
* THE LAST ONE IS SPOTLIGHT. THE SS SPOTLIGHT HOW THE STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION, IF SOMEBODY IS UNDER AGE 22 AND THEY ARE IN SCHOOL WE CAN WRITE OFF A GOOD BIT OF THEIR EARNINGS SO THEY GET MORE SSI
* SORRY FOR THE MOMENTARY DISTRACTION HERE.
* OKAY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET MORE TRAINING AND THIS PARTICULAR SLIDE, OUR CONTRACTOR, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, HAS CREATED A REALLY GOOD INTRODUCTORY WEB COURSE. THEY OFFER IT 8 TIMES A YEAR, IT'S FREE, YOU JUST HAVE TO GO TO VCU'S WEB SITE, WE HAVE THE LINK ON THE SLIDE, AND YOU SIGN UP AND IT'S A 6-LESSON, 3 WEEK COURSE. THEY ARE VERY WELL DONE. AND THEY GIVE YOU A GOOD OVERVIEW OF WHAT WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND INCENTIVES IS, WHEN WORK IS APPROPRIATE, WHEN WORK INDEN ZIEFS AFFECT PEOPLE'S WORK, I CAN'T RECOMMEND IT HIGHLY ENOUGH. IT IS A BEGINNING. THIS IS NOT THAT COURSE THAT MARGERY WAS TALKING ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE GO AND SIT FOR A WEEK AND THEN THEY DO TESTING FOR WEEKS AND THEN THEY HAVE THAT SUBMIT BENEFIT SUMMARY [A-PBL/] ANALYSES THEY HAVE WRITTEN, WHICH IS THE CWIC TRAINING. BUT FOR EN STAFF WE CALL THEM COMMUNITY PARTNER WORK INCENTIVE COUNSELORS. TO RETAIN CERTIFICATION THEY HAVE TO DO ON-GOING TRAINING AND ON THE TICKET TO WORK WEB SITE, VCU AND MAXIMUS COLLABORATED TO CREATE ANOTHER, LIKE, HOW TO COORDINATE WITH YOUR LOCAL WIPA, IT'S A TWO-PART TRAINING. ALSO A VERY GOOD RESOURCE WE HAVE THAT I RECOMMEND.
* WHO IS APPROPRIATE FOR CWIC TRAINING? THIS IS ANOTHER ONE, REALLY IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY. WE HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES. WE ARE ALLOWING 5 TO 7EN STAFF TO GO TO TRAINING IN ADDITION TO WIPA STAFF. 8 TRAININGS A YEAR, SO THAT'S 40 PEOPLE, ROUGHLY. IF YOU SEND SOMEBODY MAKE SURE THAT YOU REALIZE THIS IS A LOT OF WORK. THIS IS CRITICAL FOR THE BENEFICIARIES THAT YOU SERVE, THAT THEY GET GOOD ACCURATE BENEFITS COUNSELING FROM SOMEBODY WHO CAN COMMUNICATE THE COMPLEXITY IN A WAY THAT PEOPLE CAN UNDERSTAND, PEOPLE AT DIFFERENT LEARNING LEVELS. IT'S CRITICAL THAT PEOPLE HAVE TIME TO DO THE TRAINING, THAT THEY HAVE TIME TO DO THE TESTING, THAT [TH-EFR/] TIME TO ACCESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THAT THEY RETAIN THEIR CERTIFICATION WITH ON-GOING TRAINING. IT'S A PERISHABLE SKILL, VERY COMPLICATED. PEOPLE CAN LOSE IT PRETTY FAST. AND THE ONE GOAL, THE ONE THING THAT WILL CAUSE PEOPLE TO QUIT WORKING FAST IS IF THEY GET MISINFORMATION AND THEY GET OVERPAID. SO IF ANYONE IN YOUR PROJECT WANTS TO BECOME A BENEFITS COUNSELOR, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR PROJECT IS WILLING TO MAKE THE INVESTMENT. GIVE THEM TIME AND USE THEM. ONCE THEY ARE CERTIFIED FOR THE WIPAS WE DON'T LET PEOPLE RETAIN CERTIFICATION UNLESS THEY ARE DOING BENEFITS COUNSELING, WORKING [TKR-EGT/]LY WITH BENEFICIARIES, AT LEAST 40 PERCENT OF A FULL-TIME SCHEDULE. AND IT'S BETTER IF IT'S MORE BECAUSE THIS IS VERY COMPLICATED INFORMATION AND YOU WANT BENEFICIARIES TO GET WITH SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS THE RIGHT ANSWER AND KNOWS WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWERS THEY DON'T HAVE.
* SO THAT'S ANOTHER TAKEAWAY. JUST MAKE SURE IF YOU DECIDE TO ENROLL SOMEBODY AND YOU GET SOMEONE IN A WIPA CLASS TO BECOME A COMMUNITY WORK INCENTIVE COUNSELOR -- COMMUNITY PARTNER WORK INCENTIVE COUNSELOR, THAT YOU GIVE THEM TIME AND YOU USE THEIR SERVICES BECAUSE THEY WILL LOSE IT OTHERWISE.
* QUICK REVIEW. WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE PLANNING ARE YOUR PARTNERS, THE SERVICES ARE FREE, THEY ARE YOUR PARTNERS BECAUSE WE ALL WANT BENEFICIARIES TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND THEY NEED INFORMATION TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEIR BENEFITS. THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO DO A COSTS BENEFIT ANALYSIS. MANY OF US WHO ARE WORKING OR THINKING ABOUT, OKAY, I HAVE THESE BILLS AND I HAVE THIS INCOME AND HOW WILL I TAKE CARE OF MY RETIREMENT, FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BENEFITS COUNSELING IS A KIND OF FINANCIAL PLANNING. IT'S ALSO A LITTLE BIT OF CASE MANAGEMENT, WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU NEED, WHAT SERVICES ARE OUT THERE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT. SO IT'S A VERY VALUABLE RESOURCE AND IT'S A PIECE OF THE BACK TO WORK PROCESS THAT'S CRITICAL.
* IT IS A LIMITED RESOURCE. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THE PRIORITIES THAT WE HAVE AND I'LL TELL YOU FROM THE SLIDE EARLIER WE GET AS MANY AS A HUNDRED PEOPLE REGISTERING FOR A CLASS THAT WE WILL ONLY ALLOW, THE MAXIMUM IN THE CLASS IS 30 AND IT'S USUALLY AROUND 20 OR 25 AND WE USUALLY ONLY ALLOW 5 TO 7 EN STAFF. AGAIN, THIS IS VALUABLE TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.
* AND I THINK WE'RE GOING TO -- OH, THE ONE THING I HAVEN'T SAID YET AN I THINK MARGERY ALLUDED TO IT, THE PRIMARY REFERRAL SOURCE TO WIPA IS THE TICKET TO WORK HELP LINE, THEY GET APPROXIMATELY 76 PERCENT OF REFERRALS FROM THE HELP LINE. WE DID THAT ON PURPOSE BECAUSE WE WANT THE WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE PROJECTS TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THEIR BENEFICIARIES RATHER THAN DEALING WITH OUTREACH AND DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T READY TO WORK YET. BUT IF YOU HAVE A BENEFICIARY WHO IS APPROPRIATE FOR WIPA REFERRAL, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE TICKET TO WORK HELP LINE. IF YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED A RELATIONSHIP WITH A WIPA IN YOUR AREA, IF YOU ARE A SMALLER EN, YOU AREN'T DOING THE WHOLE COUNTRY, IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO CALL THE WORK INCENTIVE AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TALK TO THEM. IT MIGHT BE BEST TO GET A REFERRAL DIRECTLY IF YOU HAVE SOMEBODY IN AN URGENT SITUATION. YOU HAVE THE TICKET TO WORK HOTLINE NUMBER ON THE SLIDE, DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE IT. THE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE HAD A LOT OF TRAINING AND THEY CAN GIVE GOOD, BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO BENEFITS AND IS THE PERSON APPROPRIATE FOR WIPA REFERRAL.
* >> ONLY BECAUSE THERE WAS A QUESTION SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW I WILL ASK, STACY WANTS TO KNOW IS AN EN ABLE TO REFER DIRECTLY TO A WIPA OR CWIC OR SHOULD THEY HAVE THEIR BENEFICIARIES CALL THE TICKET TO WORK HELP LINE FOR REFERRAL?
* >> EITHER WAY. IF AN EN REFERS DIRECTLY TO A WIPA YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT PERSON MEETS THE SERVICE CRITERIA, THAT THEY RECEIVE BENEFITS, THEY ARE ABOUT TO GO TO WORK OR THEY ARE WORKING, EVERYTHING THAT WE HAD ON THAT SLIGHT. I THINK IT'S REALLY VALUABLE IF YOU ARE GOING TO REFER DIRECTLY TO A WIPA THAT YOU CONTACT THAT WIPA AND SAY, I HAVE THIS BENEFICIARY OR YOU SAY I'D LIKE TO REFER BENEFICIARIES TO YOU IN THE FUTURE, WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DO IT. OTHERWISE THE TICKET TO WORK HELP LINE IF THEY CALL THEM, THE WIPAS HAVE TO GET BACK WITHIN A DAY OR TWO AND THEY USUALLY DO. THE STATISTICS ON MOST OF THEM IS THAT THEY GET WITHIN A DAY.
* >> WONDERFUL, THAT WAS ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE CHAT.
* >> WE WILL BE OPENING THE LINE IF YOU CONCLUDED YOUR PRESENTATION.
* >> I HAVE.
* >> OKAY, WE WILL BE OPENING UP THE LINES AND BETHANY WILL BE HELPING US WITH THAT.
* ANOTHER QUESTION, THE WIPA TRAINING PROGRAM FOLLOWS A ORDER OF SELECTION PROCESS HAS FILLED UP QUICKLY. AS AN EN IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO BE CHOSEN FOR THIS TRAINING. BASICALLY THEY ARE ASKING IF THEY CAN BE MOVED UP BECAUSE THEY ARE AN EN
* >> ACTUALLY WE HAVE JUST CHANGED THE TRAINING PRIORITIES AND WE HAVE MOVED EN'S UP. YOU ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY GROUP AFTER WIPA FOR THE TRAININGS BUT WE HAVE TO LIMIT THE NUMBER BECAUSE WHEN WE MAKE A COMMITMENT TO SEND SOMEBODY TO TRAINING, BCU HAS TO DO A LOT OF WORK WITH THAT PERSON. THEY DO A LOT OF HAND HOLDING, GRADING, SUPPORTING THE PERSON THROUGH THE PROCESS AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS ANOTHER REASON THAT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IF SOMEBODY GOES THROUGH THE TRAINING AND THEY GO THROUGH THE COMMUNITY PARTNER WORK INCENTIVES COUNSELING CERTIFICATION THAT THEY USE THAT SKILL. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING FOR SOMEBODY WHO IS JUST EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE WANTS TO ANSWER A QUESTION. THAT PERSON WHO EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE WANTS TO ANSWER IS QUESTION IS MOST OFTEN GOING TO GIVE THE WRONG ANSWER. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE WHO GO INVEST THE TIME, ENERGY AND COMMITMENT TO DO IT WELL.
* >> THANK YOU. ONE MORE QUESTION BEFORE WE OPEN UP AND HAVE PARTICIPANTS ASK THE QUESTIONS. DO YOU KNOW THE TYPICAL FOR AN EN TO GET TRAINED TO BE A CWIC?
* >> AS I SAID , WE ALLOW 5 TO 7 EN STAFF IN A TRAINING. IT'S THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AFTER WIPA. WE WILL HAVE 80 TO A HUNDRED PEOPLE REGISTER FOR THE CLASS BUT WE HAVE TO LIMIT IT TO THE RESOURCES WE HAVE. IT'S FREE TO THE PEOPLE WHO GO, INCLUDING THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WE PAY FOR IT FROM THE CONTRACT. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT IT BECAUSE OF THE LIMITATIONS WE HAVE TO SUPPORT VCU
* >> I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION ON BEHALF OF EN'S TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION AND WE WILL NOW OPEN UP THE LINES.
* >> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF YOU WISH TO ASK A QUESTION OVER THE PHONES YOU MAY SIGNAL BY PRESSING STAR 1 ON YOUR TELEPHONE KEY PAD.
* >> THIS IS CAROL. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
* >> OH, HI, CAROL, YES.
* >> OH, NO, THAT'S OKAY, I'M LISTENING INTENTLY. I LOVE IT. CAN I JUST REMIND EVERYONE, ANYONE WHO IS NOT SPEAKING TO GO ON MUTE? THERE'S TREMENDOUS BACKGROUND NOISE. THANK YOU.
* >> THANK YOU FOR THAT, CAROL.
* >> WE DO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS OVER THE PHONE.
* >> OKAY, WONDERFUL.
* >> CALLER, YOUR LINE IS OPEN.
* >> HELLO?
* >> HELLO.
* >> HI, ONE OF MY QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE, ACTUALLY IT'S A TWO-FOLD QUESTION. I OVERHEARD YOU SAY THAT IN TERMS OF INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE BLIND THAT THEY HAVE, THE INCENTIVES THAT THEY HAVE IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNT OF THEIR EARNINGS CAN BE OVER $2,000, I BELIEVE IT WAS, AND THAT WAS THE ONLY INCENTIVE THAT THEY HAVE? THAT'S ONE OF MY QUESTIONS.
* >> WHAT I WAS SAYING IS THAT UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PROGRAM THERE IS A HIGHER LIMIT FOR SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY AND I THINK IT IS $1890 THIS YEAR PER MONTH. I HAVE TO DOUBLECHECK THAT NUMBER, BUT IT'S OVER $1800 A MONTH. UNDER THE SSI PROGRAM THERE ARE SPECIAL EXPENSES THAT THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION CAN DEDUCT WHEN THEY ARE DECIDING HOW WORK WILL AFFECT AN SSI PAYMENT.
* >> OKAY. SO WHEN SOMEONE IN TERMS OF BEING BLIND THAT'S RECEIVING SSDI, THEY WILL NOT GET THE SAME WORK INCENTIVES THAT THE SSI BLIND WOULD GET, RIGHT?
* >> THAT IS CORRECT, THEY DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BLIND WORK EXPENSES. THEY HAVE THE SAME WORK INCENTIVES THAT ALL OTHER DISABILITY BENEFICIARIES DO ON THE SSDI PROGRAM WITH A SLIGHTLY HIGHER -- ACTUALLY CONSIDERABLY HIGHER SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY.
* >> OKAY, THE SECOND QUESTION I HAD WAS I KNOW YOU HAVE WHAT THEY CALL THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD, WHICH IS 9 MONTHS, BUT FROM MY UNDERSTANDING THERE IS ADDITIONAL MONTHS WHERE YOU HAVE AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY AND THEN YOU HAVE A GRACE PERIOD. SO THAT COMES UP, TO MY UNDERSTANDING, IS 12 MONTHS TOTAL THAT INDIVIDUAL HAS THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO WORK WITHOUT THEIR BENEFITS BEING AFFECTED. IS THAT CORRECT?
* >> IF THE PERSON RECEIVES SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE, SSDI, AND THEY ARE GOING TO WORK AND THEY EARN OVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT IN A GIVEN MONTH, THEY USE ONE TRIAL WORK PERIOD MONTH. THEY HAVE 9 TRIAL WORK PERIOD MONTHS. AFTER THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD IS OVER, THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY, WHICH IS 36 MONTHS, BEGINNING. DURING THE PERIOD OF EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY IF THE PERSON PERFORMS WHAT WE CONSIDER SUBSTANTIAL WORK THEY GET A CESSATION, BUT THEY DON'T ALL RUN TOGETHER. THE ONLY THING IN THAT SCENARIO THAT RUN TOGETHER IS THAT LAST MONTH OF THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD AND THE FIRST MONTH OF THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY. THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD CAN BE SPREAD OVER UP TO 5 YEARS.
* >> YEAH, I -- OKAY.
* >> OKAY?
* >> YEAH, I UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE 36 MONTHS BUT I UNDERSTAND IT ACTUALLY COMES UP TO ABOUT ONE YEAR OF TRIAL WORK PERIOD BECAUSE WHEN YOU ADD THE GRACE MONTH PLUS THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY IT TOTALS UP ABOUT 12 MONTHS.
* >> YOU GOT TO SEPARATE THOSE CONCEPTS. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU LOOK AT WORKING WHILE DISABLED, HOW WE CAN WORK. IT'S KIND OF COMPLICATED BUT IT IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE.
* >> TERRY, I WAS JUST WONDERING, THE REFERENCE THE GENTLEMAN YOU ARE ASKING, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT CESSATION? MAYBE YOU ARE JUST --
* >> YES, CESSATION MONTH, THE CESSATION MONTHS THAT YOU GET AND THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY, THOSE MONTHS.
* >> TERRY, IT COULD BE THE GRACE PERIOD AND CESSATION, I WONDER IF THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY IS BEING USED [-UPB/] CORRECTLY.
* >> THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
* >> MY CONCERN ABOUT ADDING IT TO THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD IS IT MAY NOT HAPPEN FOR A COUPLE YEARS. THE TRIAL WORK LEVEL IS LOWER THAN SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY. LET'S SAY THE PERSON EARNS $900 A MONTH, AND THEY EARN 900 A MONTH AND THEN TWO YEARS LATER THEY FINALLY EARN ABOVE SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY, THAT'S WHEN THE GRACE PERIOD HAPPENS. I'M HESITANT TO SAY THEY GO TOGETHER BECAUSE THEY DON'T ALWAYS.
* >> IF YOU KEEP IT AS A CONCEPT IT DOESN'T GO TOGETHER SO I'M GLAD YOU USED THAT TERMINOLOGY. CALLER, COULD YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF? WHAT IS YOUR NAME.
* >> JOHN DEPLUSSIS
* >> HI, JOHN. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR COMMENTS.
* >> OWE, I WAS JUST GETTING SOME CLARIFICATION, THAT'S ALL.
* >> WONDERFUL, THANK YOU, APPRECIATE THAT. AND JUST A REMINDER FOR THOSE ON THE PHONE, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR LINES ARE MUTED. BETHANY, DO WE HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
* >> WE DO. WE WILL MOVE TO OUR NEXT ONE.
* >> HELLO.
* >> WHO IS ON THE LINE?
* >> CALLER, YOUR LINE IS OPEN.
* >> PLEASE CHECK YOUR MUTE FUNCTION .
* >> AND HEARING NO RESPONSE WE WILL TAKE OUR NEXT CALLER IN LINE. YOUR LINE IS OPEN.
* >> ALL RIGHT, WHO IS ON THE LINE?
* >> HELLO, I'M NOT SURE, THIS IS STACEY CLARK. I'M NOT SURE WHO ACTUALLY IS NEXT AND HOW YOU KNOW IF YOU'RE UP. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
* >> YOU ARE UP, STACEY.
* >> HELLO, I JUST HAD A QUESTION ABOUT SOMETHING ONE OF THE SPEAKERS SAID ABOUT REPORTING PAY STUB INCOME. I NEED TO CLARIFY THAT BECAUSE YOU MENTIONED [THA-TD/] BENEFICIARY, I KNOW THEY ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING THEIR INCOME TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR SOME FEEDBACK ON THAT, THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT, I'VE BEEN TOLD THEY NEED TO PRESENT THAT TO THEIR LOCAL FIELD OFFICE ON A MONTHLY BASIS. IS THAT CORRECT?
* >> DIFFERENT FIELD OFFICES OPERATE DIFFERENTLY AND IT DEPENDS ON THE PROGRAM. THE REASON WHY I'M HESITANT IS IF A PERSON IS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE AND IF THEIR EARNINGS ARE UNDER TRIAL WORK, SAY, THE FIELD OFFICE ISN'T GOING TO WANT TO SEE IT EVERY MONTH. IT IS GOOD TO BE CONSISTENT. IF YOU WORK IF AN AREA WITH A SPECIFIC FIELD OFFICE OR YOU ARE WORKING WITH A WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE OFFICE YOU MIGHT WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BEST FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL. WE HAVE WAYS TO REPORT ONLINE, WE HAVE WAYS TO REPORT BY PHONE BUT YOU WON'T ACCESS THE WORK INCENTIVES THAT WAY. IN THAT CASE IT IS BEST TO GO TO THE FIELD OFFICE AND THEY WILL DO, YOU ESTIMATE THE EARNINGS AND THEN ABOUT ONCE A YEAR, I'M LOOKING AT MARGERY BECAUSE SHE IS OUR SSI EXPERT IN THE ROOM, ABOUT ONCE A YEAR THEY WOULD DO A REDETERMINATION AND LOOK AT THE INCOME AND LOOK AT THE WORK INCENTIVES AND DETERMINE HOW THAT WOULD AFFECT A PERSON'S SSI
* >> BASICALLY, JUST TO CLARIFY MY QUESTION AND THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THAT, MY CLIENTS, YES, THEY ARE ALL SSDI THAT I DO SORT OF AS AN EN AND I DO HAVE THEM SEND IN ALL THEIR PAY STUBS TO ME, I HELP THEM ANALYZE WHERE THEY ARE AT OR ABOUT WHERE THEY ARE AT WITH TRIAL WORK LEVEL. IF THEY ARE OVER THAT AMOUNT I KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO REPORT THAT AND I HAVE THAT WITH ALL MY LOCAL FIELD OFFICES AND I UNDERSTAND HOW THEY WOULD LIKE THAT REPORTED. AND IT DOES VARY BY FIELD OFFICE, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. HOW OFTEN THEY WANT IT, HOW THEY WANT PRESENTED, SOME WANT IT FAXED, SOME WANT IT MAILED. THERE ARE ALL DIFFERENT WAYS. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT IS TRULY CORRECT SO IT SOUNDS LIKE IT IS TRULY BY FIELD OFFICE.
* >> IT IS TRULY BY FIELD OFFICE.
* >> I WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT SSI BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL HER CLIENTS ARE SSDI JUST ONE POINT I WANT TO MAKE ABOUT SSI, TERRY SAID WE TAKE THE PAY STUBS AND WE ESTIMATE THEM. WITH SSI WHEN INDIVIDUALS BRING IN THEIR PAY STUBS WE ENTER THEM IN THE SYSTEM ON REALTIME SO THE PERSON DOESN'T GET OVERPAID SO WE ENTER THEM ON THE SYSTEM IF WE HAVE VERIFIED PAY STUBS SO WE CAN KEEP THEM FROM GETTING OVERPAID. IT'S GREAT IF THEY REPORT MONTHLY.
* ALSO I WANTED TO ADD IT SOUNDS, STACEY, LIKE YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB OF CONNECTING WITH YOUR FIELD OFFICE AND FINDING OUT HOW THEY WANT THE INFORMATION WHICH IS AWESOME. WHEN INDIVIDUALS GO INTO FIELD [O-FRS/]S TO REPORT THEIR WAGES IF THEY ARE ABLE TO, I KNOW IT CAN BE A HASSLE IN SOME AREAS, BUT IF THEY CAN DO THAT AND THEY ARE COMFORTABLE DOING THAT WHEN THEY REPORT THEIR WAGES THEY GET A RECEIPT. THERE IS NO HARM IN THEIR DOING THAT MONTHLY.
* >> THEY CAN KEEP THOSE REPORTS IN THE NOTEBOOK I WAS TALKING ABOUT. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT THEY KEEP THE RECEIPTS.
* >> WE WILL TAKE OUR NEXT CALLER. WHEN YOU HEAR THE PROMPT PLEASE ANNOUNCE YOUR NAME .
* >> WHO IS ON THE LINE?
* >> CALLER, YOUR LINE IS OPEN. PLEASE CHECK YOUR MUTE FUNCTION.
* >> HELLO?
* >> HI.
* >> CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'M NEXT?
* >> YOU ARE UP, YES.
* >> AWESOME, I DIDN'T KNOW. I KEPT SAYING HELLO ABOUT 5 TIMES. THIS IS THERESA, I'M WITH EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS. HOW IS EVERYBODY TODAY? IT'S A GREAT MEETING.
* >> THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE, THERESA, WONDERFUL. AND YOUR QUESTION?
* >> MY QUESTION IS WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EN OBTAINING A SECOND CWIC CERTIFICATION?
* >> YOU MEAN HAVING A SECOND PERSON GO?
* >> YES, I'M THE CURRENT CWIC FOR EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS.
* >> YOU ARE ACTUALLY A COMMUNITY PARTNER WORK INCENTIVE COUNSELOR. WE SEPARATE THE TITLES, CWIC ACTUALLY IS A PERSON WHO WORKS FOR A WIPA, JUST SO YOU KNOW THAT. IT IS JUST AS LIKELY TO GET A SECOND ONE AS IT IS TO GET A FIRST ONE. THE PERSON NEEDS TO REGISTER AS SOON AS THE TRAINING REGISTRATION OPENS AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL GET IN. AGAIN, IT'S A VERY LIMITED NUMBER THAT WE CAN TAKE, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO PRECLUDE SOMEBODY FROM GOING BECAUSE THEY ALREADY IS A COMMUNITY PARTNER WORK INCENTIVE COUNSELOR AT THE EN
* >> ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.
* >> THANKS, TERRY.
* >> YOU'RE WELCOME.
* >> AND WE WILL TAKE OUR NEXT CALLER.
* >> HI, THIS IS LA BREA STANS, HOW IS EVERYONE THIS AFTERNOON.
* >> SORRY, I MISSED YOUR NAME.
* >> HOW ARE YOU?
* >> GOOD. WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?
* >> MY QUESTION IS REGARDING, OFTEN TIMES WHEN I GO IN THE PORTAL AND I'M LOOKING AT A CONSUMER'S, I'M ABOUT TO SUBMIT PAYMENT OR I'M CHECKING TO SEE IF THEY ARE ASSIGNED, IT WILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE, TWL 5 MONTHS ONLY. SO DOES THAT MEAN THEY ONLY HAVE 5 MONTHS OF TRIAL WORK LEVEL LEFT AND IF SO HOW DO I KNOW WHAT PHASE THEY ARE ON IN TERMS OF SUBMITTING A PAYMENT? NOW, I HAVE CALLED THE EN PAYMENTS LINE AND UNFORTUNATELY OFTEN TIMES THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF HOW TO MAKE THAT DETERMINATION ON WHERE THEY STAND WITH THE PAYMENT AS FAR AS WHICH PAYMENT LEVEL THEY ARE ON. SO I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED AS TO HOW I FIND OUT THAT INFORMATION . HELLO?
* >> I'M SORRY, I JUST WANTED TO CHECK -- THIS IS MARGERY. ONE THING I WANTED TO POINT OUT AND THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS AND TERRY POINTED THIS OUT WITH REGARD TO REPORTING WAGES. WHEN YOU REPORT INCOME TO US SO YOU CAN GET PAID AS AN EN, THAT'S A VERY DIFFERENT PROCESS WITH THE PAYMENT SHE RECEIVES, THE PHASE PAYMENT YOU RECEIVE, MILESTONE PAYMENTS, THAT'S DIFFERENT THAN THE BENEFICIARY, WHAT RULES WE HAVE FOR THEM REGARDING TRIAL WORK PERIOD. SO THOSE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. SO ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT GETTING -- SOMETHING RELATED TO THE PAYMENTS OR ARE YOU SAYING WHEN YOU SUBMIT THE PAYMENTS YOU ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY ARE IN THE TRIAL WORK PROCESS?
* >> I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY ARE BECAUSE IT JUST SAYS TWL, 5 MONTHS ONLY OR ONLY 5 MONTHS. SO HOW FAR DOWN ARE THEY IN THE MILESTONE LEVEL, ARE THEY AT A 3 ALREADY OR AT A 2? SO THAT'S WHERE I'M RUNNING INTO A PROBLEM, YOU KNOW, EXACTLY WHICH MILESTONE SHOULD I BE FILING AT THAT POINT?
* >> I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU. WE CAN'T SEE, WE CAN'T SEE THE PORTAL. SO DO YOU KNOW WHICH STAGE 1 MILESTONE PAYMENT YOU RECEIVED? BECAUSE THE TRIAL WORK LEVEL, IF IT'S TELLING YOU 5 MONTHS ONLY MAYBE WHATEVER PHASE I MILESTONE YOU ARE REQUESTING, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THAT NEXT ONE YET BECAUSE YOU ARE ONLY 5 MONTHS IN. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE? SO, FOR EXAMPLE --
* >> IT DOES, BUT --
* >> YOU NEED 6 MONTHS OF EARNINGS ABOVE TRIAL WORK LEVEL, AT OR ABOVE TRIAL WORK LEVELS, TO RECEIVE PHASE I MILESTONE 3. SO ASSUMING THAT'S WHAT THE PORTAL IS TELLING YOU, THAT BECAUSE YOU ONLY HAVE 5 MONTHS OF THE EARNINGS AT OR ABOVE TRIAL WORK LEVEL YOU ARE NOT YET ELIGIBLE FOR PHASE I, MILESTONE 3. THAT IS JUST MY ASSUMPTION BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE THE PORTAL BUT THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE. [OFF MIC] TRIAL WORK PERIOD, I WANT TO MAKE THAT CLEAR.
* >> RIGHT, I MISSPOKE ON THAT LAST PART. IT'S REALLY WHEN I'M LOOKING TO GET ASSIGNMENT AND IT PROVIDES THE INFORMATION WHETHER OR NOT THAT PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL IS ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER EN OR IF THEY ARE ASSIGNABLE AND ALSO GIVES THE INFORMATION AS TO IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY PAYMENTS IN THE LAST 24 MONTHS. AND OCCASIONALLY I WILL RUN ACROSS OR IT WILL SAY, TWL, 5 MONTHS ONLY OR TWL 3 SO I'M WONDERING EVEN IN TERM OF ADVISING THEM WHERE DO THEY STAND IN TERMS OF HOW MANY MONTHS OF THEIR TRIAL WORK PERIOD DO THEY HAVE REMAINING?
* >> HI, THIS IS CAROL. I'D LIKE TO MAKE A SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS WE CONTACT DIRECTLY AFTER THIS CALL SO WE CAN FINISH UP SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WIPA JUST BECAUSE WE'RE REALLY CLOSING IN ON THE --
* >> SURE, NO PROBLEM. SURE.
* >> THANK YOU SO MUCH.
* >> OPERATOR, THIS IS MARGERY, I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE QUICK THING TO EVERYBODY OUT THERE THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL BECAUSE WE DIDN'T TOUCH ON IT ON THIS CALL, BUT ONE OF THE TOOLS THAT CWICS USE AND ALSO FOLKS AT THE EN'S CAN USE IF THEY HAVE PROPER SIGNED RELEASES IS THE BENEFITS PLANNING INQUIRY, WHICH IS THE BPQY IF YOU REQUEST THE BPQY FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD OFFICE IT WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE PERSON IS, HOW MANY TRIAL WORK MONTHS THEY HAVE USED. JUST WANT TO THROW THAT OUT THERE FOR FOLKS.
* >> IF THEY HAVE REPORTED THE WORK.
* >> THANK YOU, TERRY.
* >> AND IF WE HAVE ADJUDICATED THE WORK AND LOOKED AT IT. THE BPQY CAN BE A VERY VALUABLE TOOL. IF IT'S SHOWING THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD HAS BEEN USED THEN YOU ARE GOLDEN BUT IF IT'S JUST SHOW AGO FEW MONTHS OR NOT SHOWING ANY MONTHS THEN WE HAVE TO LOOK AT OTHER THINGS SO YOU WANT TO CHECK. THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU ARE ASKING ABOUT PAYMENT SO WE WILL GET THAT OFFLINE SINCE WE DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER.
* >> WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH SABRINA
* WHILE WE QUEUE UP ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE PARTICIPANTS ON THE PHONE, IN THE CHAT I SEE A QUESTION FROM MARY G, SHE IS INDICATED SHE'S READ THAT SSDI CAN NOW REPORT EARNINGS VIA MY SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT. IS IT LIKE SSI, YOU CAN ONLY REPORT THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THE MONTH OR CAN YOU JUST UPDATE WHENEVER YOU GET A STUB?
* >> YES, THAT IS A NEW SERVICE AND IT IS FOR SSDI BENEFICIARIES ONLY. YOU CAN REPORT INNOCENT, IT DOESN'T HAVE THE 6 DAY LIMITATION THAT SSI HAS, AND IF YOU HAVE BENEFICIARIES WHO RECEIVE SSI OR WHO ARE CONCURRENT IT'S ONLY GOING TO REPORT FOR THE SSDI PORTION.
* SOME LIMITATIONS: ONE OF THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT WHEN THE BENEFICIARY GOES INTO THEIR MY SSA ACCOUNT IT WILL SHOW EMPLOYERS THAT THEY HAVE LISTED. IF THE EMPLOYER IS NOT THERE, FOR EXAMPLE, MAYBE THEY HAVE JUST STARTED WORKING THERE, THEY ACTUALLY WILL NEED TO GO INTO SOCIAL SECURITY AND REPORT THAT THEY ARE WORKING SO THAT WE CAN GET THE EMPLOYER IN THE SYSTEM AND [OFF MIC] THEN THE NEXT TIME THEY GO IN IT WILL SHOW UP AND THEY CAN REPORT. AND IT'S NEW SO WE'VE STILL GETTING SOME FEEDBACK BUT THOSE ARE THE BASICS.
* >> THE OTHER THING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW ALTHOUGH THEY ARE PUTTING IT IN SOCIAL SECURITY, THEY ARE GETTING THE INFORMATION, REMEMBER EARLIER I TALKED ABOUT THE WORK REVIEW, IT'S GOING TO GO INTO OUR SYSTEM, IT'S INFORMATION THAT WE NEED, BUT IT IS NOT GOING TO GIVE US INFORMATION AT THIS POINT, ANYWAY, ABOUT WORK INCENTIVES. SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT GOING TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE DECISION ABOUT THOSE WAGES. THE PERSON STILL NEEDS TO REPORT, THEY NEED TO GO INTO SOCIAL SECURITY IF THEY HAVE WORK INCENTIVES OR OTHER THINGS SO WE CAN MAKE A DECISION ABOUT HOW THAT WORKS RELATIVE TO THEIR BENEFITS.
* >> BUT THEY WILL ALSO GET A REPORT WHEN THEY REPORT THE WAGES, WHICH IS GREAT.
* >> THANK YOU, LADIES. THERE'S ANOTHER QUESTION IN CHAT REGARDING SUBSIDY. IF TRIAL WORK PERIOD AND EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY ARE USED AND A BENEFICIARY HAS AN EMPLOYER SUBSIDY IN PLACE IF THEY CAN EARN SGA EVEN WITH THE SUBSIDY IN PLACE, WILL THE EMPLOYER SUBSIDY STAY IN TECH FOR ANY MONTHS FOLLOWING THE MONTH THAT TRIGGERED SGA OR IS THE EMPLOYER SUBSIDY LOST?
* >> WELL.
* >> OKAY, I CAN ANSWER THIS QUESTION. FIRST, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH SUBSIDY, WE ALLOW DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES FOR SUPPORTS THAT A PERSON GETS BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY THAT SOMEBODY ELSE MIGHT NOT GET. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY GET TO TAKE A LOT OF BREAKS OR THEY GET EXTRA HELP OR THEY HAVE A JOB COACH, THERE ARE THINGS THAT SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWS. MAYBE THE PERSON IS ONLY HALF AS PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITY, SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWS SOME DEDUCTIONS FOR THAT.
* SUBSIDY IS A WORK DECISION OR WORK INCENTIVE THAT CAN BE USED AT ANY POINT DURING THE -- ANY TIME WE ADJUDICATE A WORK SITUATION, ANY TIME WE LOOK AT IT AND SAY THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO AFFECT IT, A SUBSIDY APPLIES. SO IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE PERSON'S EARNINGS, IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY, IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT THE BENEFITS WERE TERMINATED BUT IT IS ONE OF THE WORK EXPENSES THAT CAN APPLY THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS EVEN DURING THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY OR AFTER THE PERSON'S BENEFITS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AT SOME POINT AND THEN RESTARTED.
* >> WE CAN TAKE ONE MORE QUESTION FROM THE LINE AND THEN WE'LL HAVE TO CALL IT A DAY BECAUSE WE ARE PUSHING THE 4.30 HOUR. IS THERE ANY QUESTION, STEPHANIE?
* >> ABSOLUTELY. AND YOUR LINE IS OPEN.
* >> WHO IS ON THE LINE?
* >> CALLER, YOUR LINE IS OPEN. PLEASE CHECK YOUR MUTE FUNCTION.
* >> THERE SEEMS TO BE DIRTY DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD THEN I WANT TO, RATHER THAN ANSWERING ANY MORE QUESTIONS I THINK CAROL WANTED TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.
* THE TRIAL WORK PERIOD IS A 9 MONTH PERIOD. THE MONTHS DO NOT HAVE TO BE CONSECUTIVE. THE PERSON