

SSA's Employment Support Programs ALL Employment Network Call

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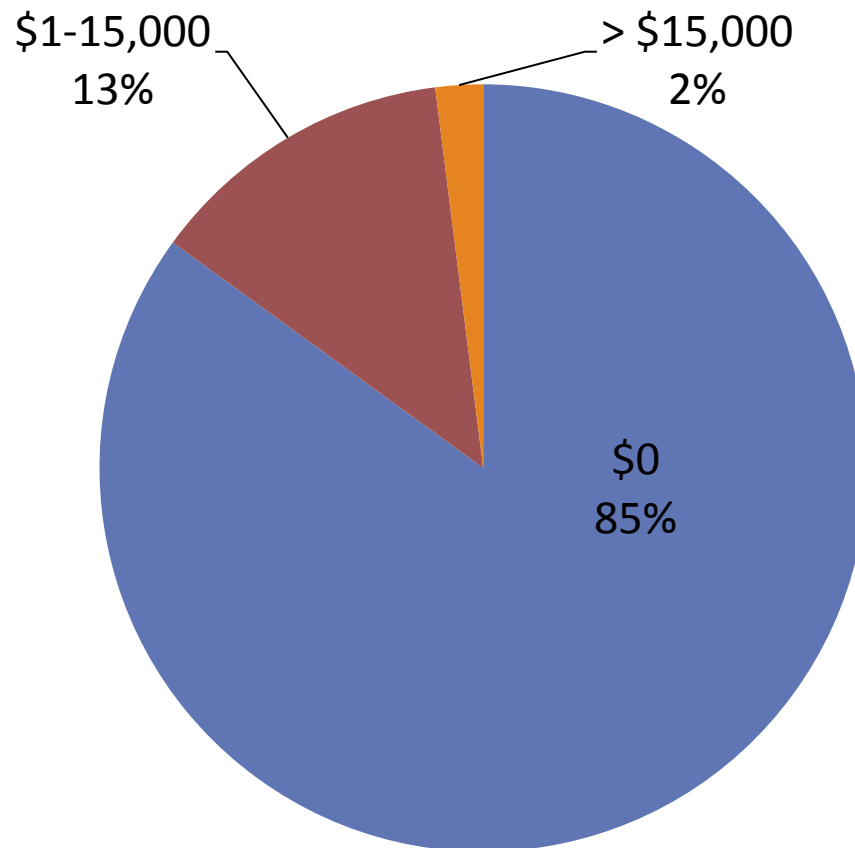
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- Can our beneficiaries return to work?
- What are our employment support programs?
- What outcomes have we observed?
- Where are we headed?

Can our DI beneficiaries return to work?

Some have earnings, but definition of disability is strict



What are our employment support programs?

- Ticket to Work
- State Vocational Rehabilitation
- Work Incentive and Planning Assistance (WIPA)
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

What outcomes have we observed?

- Ticket to Work (2006 cohort)
 - 82% had **some earnings**
 - 25% had at least **one month of non-payment**
 - \$8M paid to ENs; \$24M in benefits foregone for work
- State Vocational Rehabilitation (2006 cohort)
 - 77 % had **some earnings**
 - 16 % had at least **one month of non-payment**
 - \$52M paid to VR; \$102M in benefits foregone for work

Beyond outcomes: Why else do we have these programs?

- Many in the disability and policymaking communities consider the opportunity to work a **civil right**.
 - The government *should* offer employment support programs
- Many believe people with disabilities **should have choices**.

Where are we headed? Additional focus on youth

- Basic facts about children on SSI:
 - 32 percent live in poverty
 - 40 percent are African American
 - In households headed by a single mother
 - SSI is not a guaranteed source of income for life
- SSI young adult outcomes need improvement
 - Small percentage in college (16 percent)
 - Small percentage with any earnings (11 percent)
- Employment support services can work
 - Youth Transition Demonstration
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Where are we headed? 503 Regulations

- Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act:
 - Department of Labor rules require federal contractors to take affirmative action to recruit, employ, and promote those with disabilities
- Interagency effort to promote awareness of 503 regulations

Where are we headed? Practical improvements

- Improve outreach / marketing to beneficiaries
 - Will restart Ticket mailings
 - Looking at the auto-dial marketing issue
- NENA/SSA operational workgroup:
 - Ticket cadre proposal, BPQYs, Earnings Reports, Expedited Reinstatement, and other issues
- Training of SSA employees

Conclusion: Some Bigger Issues to Ponder

- Will stakeholders want legislative or regulatory changes to SSA's employment support programs?
- Will the proposals be fundamental or incremental?
- What role for early intervention?

