



Social Security Disability Benefits, Work Incentives, and Employment Support Programs Web Course

The VCU WIPA National Training and Data Center (NTDC) offers an online course that provides a basic introduction to the Social Security Disability benefit programs (SSI and SSDI) and their associated work incentives, as well as an overview of the field of work incentives counseling. The course is designed to meet the needs of professionals who want a better understanding of Social Security disability benefits and the basics related to how work affects these benefits. The target audience includes several distinct groups:

- Community partners who provide return-to-work services, including staff of ENs, State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, American Job Centers and other employment service providers;
- Staff of community partner agencies and organizations who have regular contact with beneficiaries and are in a position to encourage work and financial stability planning and outcomes. This includes staff from state and local Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities agencies, Mental Health and Substance Abuse agencies, Centers for Independent Living, State Protection and Advocacy, Public School systems, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, among others;
- WIPA/POD project staff who do not require certification, including administrative or other staff; as well as WIPA/POD project staff who plan to pursue CWIC certification, and would like to come to the initial training with a basic knowledge of the topics to be covered, and of their job requirements.

This two-week course consists of six (6) one-hour lessons. Each lesson includes a video lecture with slides, supplemental readings and resource tools, as well as interactive activities.

- **Lesson 1:** The Problem of Unemployment Among Social Security Disability Beneficiaries – WIPA as Part of the Solution
- **Lesson 2:** Introduction to Social Security Disability Benefit Programs
- **Lesson 3:** Title II Disability Benefits and Work
- **Lesson 4:** Understanding the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program
- **Lesson 5:** Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Work
- **Lesson 6:** Supporting Beneficiaries to Take the Next Step Toward Employment

Please visit the VCU NTDC website to view a calendar and register for the course:

<https://vcu-ntdc.org/training/initial/introIndex.cfm>.