

Helpful link:

www.ssa.gov/work/pafactsheet.html

Employment has long been recognized as a key to unlocking doors to personal growth, enhancing self-esteem, and providing a more fulfilling life. Yet, persons with disabilities continue to represent an underutilized segment of the work force. According to Department of Labor statistics only about 29% of persons with disabilities between the ages of 16 to 64 is working full or part time. The PABSS grant is now available to assist beneficiaries in the removal of barriers to work.

Funding for this brochure was made possible by the Social Security Administration. SSA has reviewed the following publication for technical accuracy only, however, this should not be considered an official SSA document.

TALENT HAS NO BOUNDARIES!

Disability Rights Mississippi is a private, nonprofit agency which receives federal funds to protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

DRMS has office locations in Jackson and Gulfport, and we serve in a state-wide capacity.

**Toll Free State-wide
1-(800)-772-4057**

Or

You can request assistance online via email at
info@drms.ms



www.drms.ms

Disability Rights Mississippi



Mississippi's Protection and Advocacy System
Advancing the civil, human, and legal rights of all individuals with disabilities in Mississippi.

**PROTECTION AND
ADVOCACY FOR
BENEFICIARIES OF
SOCIAL SECURITY
(PABSS)**

A pamphlet to explain the role of the advocacy services provided under this federal program for individuals with disabilities who desire to participate actively in the workforce.



DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI
Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities

SOCIAL SECURITY TICKET TO WORK

Through this brochure Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS) has an opportunity to share some information about a government program. The name of this grant is Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS). This grant provides federal funding for advocating, informing, and educating people with disabilities on Social Security about the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives.

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act of 1999 is a Social Security Administration return to work initiative designed to increase choice and work opportunities for SSDI/SSI beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 64. It will help them obtain employment, training or vocational rehabilitation services and support to enter or re-enter the work force.

The purpose of this program is to:

- increase beneficiary choice in obtaining rehabilitation and vocational services;
- remove barriers that require people with disabilities to choose between health care coverage and work; and
- assure that more Americans with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in the work force and lessen their dependence on public benefits.

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES

The PABSS grant has two specific purposes. First, it will provide information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services. Second, it will provide advocacy or other services that a beneficiary needs to secure or regain gainful employment. Under PABSS services, the advocate will:

- investigate and review any complaint of improper or inadequate services provided to a beneficiary with a disability by a service provider, employer, or other entity involved in a beneficiary's return to work effort.
- provide information and referral to Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities about work incentives and

employment, including information on the types of services and assistance that may be available to assist them in securing or regaining gainful employment. Technical assistance and information on work incentives will be provided to individuals, other advocates, and groups;

- provide consultation to and legal representation on behalf of beneficiaries with disabilities when such services become necessary to protect the rights of such beneficiaries. Whenever possible, alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and good faith negotiation, will be utilized;
- advocate to identify and correct deficiencies in entities providing vocational rehabilitation services, employment services and other support services to beneficiaries with disabilities involved in the return to work effort.

