

Trial Work Period (TWP)

2021 Fact Sheet on Title II Work Incentives

This fact sheet explains one of the many work incentives available to people on Title II Social Security disability benefits.

Examples of Title II disability benefits are: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Disabled Widow(er) Benefit (DWB), and Childhood Disability Benefits (also known as Disabled Adult Child or DAC benefits).

For More Information
Or to Request Services
Please Contact:



Benefits Counseling Services

Dept. of Vocational Services
22 Bramhall Street
Portland, ME 04102-3175

Toll-free in ME: 1-888-208-8700

Maine Relay Service Dial 711
Fax: 207-662-6789

www.benefitsandworkinme.org

What is the Trial Work Period (TWP)?

The Trial Work Period, sometimes known as the “TWP,” lets you test your ability to work to your fullest potential. The TWP lets you work with no limit on how much you earn for 9 months; you can earn as much as you can and still receive your full Title II cash benefit.

Trial Work Period (9 months)
Receive full cash benefit while working

How Does the TWP Work?

The 9 Trial Work Period months don't have to be used a row. In fact, you can use them over a 5 year rolling period. In 2021, a TWP month happens when your monthly job income is **\$940 or more before taxes**. The earnings amount for the TWP changes each year.

How Does Social Security Count Job Income?

Job income counts in the month it was earned unless Social Security cannot verify when earned. Then, it counts in the month it was paid. If there is a month you earn close to the Trial Work Period amount, give Social Security proof of when your income was earned along with your paystubs.

Do I Need to Tell Social Security that I'm Working?

Yes. You must let Social Security know when you start or stop working. We also recommend reporting your job earnings to Social Security every month so they can keep track of how many TWP months you've used.

What Happens After the TWP Ends?

Social Security should review your work activity and send something in writing that says your Trial Work Period is over. This is called a Continuing Disability Review or a “Work Activity Report”. When your TWP is over, you will enter a 3-year Extended Period of Eligibility (for details see the fact sheet about this work incentive). You will need to continue to track your earnings and report these to Social Security.

Can Someone Help Me with This?

Yes! A Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) from Maine Medical Center Department of Vocational Services can help you understand the Trial Work Period, show you how to track your 9 TWP months, and explain other work incentives that may apply to you. You can also contact your local Social Security office for assistance.