

## LINKING EMPLOYMENT, ABILITIES & POTENTIAL (LEAP)

### *DISABILITY BENEFITS ASSISTANCE (DBA)*

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**A program to empower individuals with disabilities in making informed life choices through benefits counseling and assistance.**

**GOAL:** To inform and educate beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) about their disability benefits (SSI, SSDI, SSDAC, Medicaid, Medicare, ODJFS, ODMRDD).

**DESCRIPTION:** Provide one-on-one benefits counseling to Social Security beneficiaries and their families. The purpose of this service is to provide accurate information to persons with disabilities about work incentives available and issues related to such programs, enabling them to make informed choices about employment. LEAP is providing disability benefits assistance to ensure that persons with disabilities get up-to-date information as it relates to their federal and state benefits.

#### **SERVICES:**

- SSA disability benefits assistance: Provision and explanation of accurate Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits information
- Assistance with ODMRDD waiver and ODJFS waiver management
- Assessment of the potential impact of wages, waivers, and/or other changes on eligibility for Federal and State benefits and overall financial well-being
- Assistance with resources to promote self-sufficiency such as food stamps, housing, child care, Medicaid, Medicaid Buy-in, transportation
- Education regarding comprehensive benefits monitoring and management
- Information and assistance in understanding the potential impact of changes in life situations, and guidance regarding the effects of various work incentives
- Disability determination assistance: assists individuals who have experienced difficulty in securing disability related benefits
- Peer support and advocacy
- Intervening in disputes relating to benefits and service entitlements covering food stamps, disability assistance, Medicaid and Social Security and facilitate access to Vocational Rehabilitation, housing, transportation, etc.
- Develop increased self-esteem and assertive behavior by recognizing abilities through peer support group sessions
- **Disability Benefits Assistance Maintenance**
- **Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS) Development:** PASS is a long term Social Security work incentive that allows a person to set aside income to finance a work goal, i.e. starting a business, purchasing a vehicle for work.
- **PASS Maintenance Services:** A PASS requires much follow-through on the part of the beneficiary.

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