

Employment and the Public Health Programs

SSDI/Medicare Connection

- Eligible after 24 month waiting period.
- If you get an SSDI check, you get Medicare.
- If lose SSDI from earnings, can still get Medicare for at least 93 months after the Trial Work Period.

SSI/Medicaid Connection

- SSI and Medicaid eligibility are connected in Arizona.
- \$1 of SSI means Medicaid eligibility.
- Continued Medicaid eligibility is often key consideration in return to work decision!

What happens to Medicaid?

Eligible for FREE Medicaid through a special program for SSI workers who need Medicaid to maintain employment, which is called 1619(a) and (b).

Section 1619 (b)

- Earnings increase to the point that an individual's monthly SSI cash benefit amount is \$0.00.
- Still receive Medicaid without a cost.
- The 2010 threshold in Arizona is \$26,638
- Individuals can request an individualized threshold.

Where Does Freedom to Work Medicaid Fit In?

- Freedom to Work Medicaid allows individuals with disabilities who work to obtain or maintain Medicaid.
- No asset limit and very high income limit.
- Most SSI beneficiaries can get Medicaid through 1619 unless want higher income or assets.
- But, many SSDI beneficiaries will join Freedom to Work Medicaid.

Freedom to Work Medicaid

- It is category of Medicaid, not a different type of Medicaid....all the same services!
- Must be disabled and between 16 and 64
- Must be employed
- Countable monthly earnings of \$2257 (this includes deducting over 1/2 of earnings to get to countable!)
- No asset limits

Bottom Line on Healthcare

- Medicare continues or continues for long period of time.
- SSI beneficiaries keep Medicaid up to Threshold.
- SSDI (and rarely needed, but possible SSI) beneficiaries can keep or get Medicaid through Freedom to Work.
- All work incentive Medicaid eligibility **INCLUDES ALTCS services!**