

HR and Hiring Managers: What you Need to Know about SSI/SSDI When Hiring Peer Specialists – Questions and Answers:

Any incentives for non profits?

- I would suggest people take a look at the NYESS EmployABILITY toolkit. There are a lot of financial incentives and tax breaks for businesses to hire folks with a diagnosis. [EmployAbility AToolkit for Employers \(ny.gov\)](#).
- There are incentives that non-profits MIGHT be able to utilize:
 - Work Opportunity Tax Credit
 - NYS Workers Employment Tax Credit (WETC)
 - Disabled Access Tax Credit
 - Barrier Removal Tax Deduction
 - Through ACCESS-VR- Work Try-Out (WTO) & On the Job Training programs

How long is the trial work period?

- (Answered by Gina live). 9 rolling months over a 60 month (5 year) period. This is an SSDI work incentive. For more info, consult the NYESS site (www.nyess.ny.gov) and click on Benefits Advisors or go to the SSA site: [Trial Work Period \(ssa.gov\)](#)

Can someone receiving SSDI apply for the Plan to Achieve Self-support (PASS)?

- (Coyle answered in Chat). Yes, they can put their full SSDI check into a PASS, thus lowering their countable income to zero, making them eligible for SSI & PASS. If they have earned income AND receive SSDI, they can put both their wages and SSDI in the PASS Plan. So even though it is listed as an SSI work incentive a person receiving SSDI CAN use a PASS plan as well. For more info on PASS Plans, please visit: www.passonline.org

Is this also applicable to prospective peer specialist who apply for work in NYS but live in other state? or do they have to live in NYS as well?

- Individuals who reside outside of New York state and intend to work within NYS should consult with a Benefits Advisor who is in the state that they reside in, as wages will affect any social benefits they may receive differently.



Comments:

Full-time is also better for people receiving peer support and continuity of support particularly since building a trusting relationship is key.

Excellent webinar, well organized!