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Agenda

Presenters:

John Spears, HFS Bureau of Medical Eligibility & Special Programs
Ron Mulvaney, WIPA Program Director, IL Assistive Technology Program

- Goals and Challenges
- A New Way to Promote Resources and Services
- Illinois Disability Benefits Estimator on Illinois workNet
 - brief demo
- Use in the Field
 - WIPA perspective
- Q&A

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Estimator Goals

- Debunk 'myth of losing benefits' due to working
- Provide 'useful' information to the many
- Target individuals on SSI/SSDI to increase access to planning assistance and services
- Increase visibility via Illinois workNet (search & traffic)
 - Search engine optimization for "Illinois disability benefits" results with Illinois workNet on page1 of Google results (out of 685,000)
 - Hundreds of thousands of registered users and workforce professionals can access the Estimator (in a familiar setting)

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Estimator Challenges

- Limited time & budget
- Actual calculations require extensive time & information
 - Opted to accommodate anyone's situation and provide meaningful guidance with minimal use of financial details. Other states' calculators require extensive data entry (similar to taxes), take 30+ minutes to complete, and have significant annual costs.
- Designed Estimator as a promotional tool to reside on the Disability Resources pathway on IllinoisworkNet.com
- Ultimately, it's all about beginning the conversation!

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<http://www.illinoisworknet.com/estimator>

Disability Resources Pathway:

Connect to work transition resources for adults and youth with disabilities.



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The Time is Right!

- Since the Ticket to Work Act began:
- Less than 1/2 of 1% of SSI individuals have ended benefits due to earnings (\$674/ monthly SSI).
 - Why live on \$674 when resources exist to live on more?

With improving economy, employers are looking to add employees—often *part-time without benefits*.

- May be advantages for individuals with additional income and healthcare resources...

- Estimator promotes concept of increasing income:
- Especially for those already working
 - Often with only a relatively minor impact on benefits

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Helping to Make Better Informed Decisions

- Make smart decisions about how employment affects benefits (SSI, SSDI, Medicaid)
- Beneficial work incentives, especially for individuals on SSDI/ SSI, make it worthwhile to look into going to work
- Promote potential resources to youths and their parents (who may be unaware of them and how to apply)
- Introduce individuals to lesser-known programs (HBWD, 1619, and PASS plans) and how to connect to them

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Drive Traffic to the WIPAs

Start the Estimator

Your results are estimates only. This is not a replacement for professional benefits analysis. Use the estimator as you consider a change in employment and then [contact a WIPA coordinator](#) to discuss your results.

- Create interest in a conversation
- Make it easy for individuals to find a WIPA coordinator
- Solicit free, individualized benefits counseling to anyone on SSI or SSDI

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Illinois Disability Benefits Estimator – Demo



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Next Steps

- Review the resources on the Disability Resources pathway
- Try the Estimator for Yourself!
- Direct customers to Illinois workNet from your website:
 - Go to <http://www.illinoisworknet.com/disabilityresources> to start
- Share this information with your staff and partners that were not able to attend.



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Disability Benefits Estimator Webinar

Q & A



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Contact Information

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