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For questions about Medicaid Buy-In program, please contact:

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COMMUNICATING
COORDINATING
CONNECTING

Our connection begins with a partnership looking at Texas resources that support employment opportunities for people with disabilities

DEPARTMENT OF ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



Texas Employment and Disability Connections (EDC)

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) program, in collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is developing the infrastructure for a comprehensive system of competitive employment support for people with disabilities.

The primary purpose is to identify and create sustainable competitive employment opportunities through the following goals:

- Increase participation in Medicaid Buy-In
• Conduct mapping and analysis of system services
• Continue partner collaboration
• Sustain and improve efforts to inform consumer and employer base





Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program

The WIPA projects across the U.S. and the U.S. territories work with the Social Security Administration (SSA) beneficiaries with disabilities on job placement, benefits planning, and career development.

By working with a WIPA, SSA beneficiaries will be better equipped to make informed choices about work. Each WIPA is staffed with Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) to:

- provide work incentives planning and assistance
- help beneficiaries and their families determine their eligibility for Federal or State work incentives programs
- refer beneficiaries with disabilities to appropriate State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies or Employment Networks based on individual needs and impairment
- provide general information about potential employer-based or federally subsidized health benefits coverage available to beneficiaries once they enter the workforce
- inform beneficiaries with disabilities of further protection and advocacy services available to them

WIPAs are authorized to serve all SSA beneficiaries with disabilities, including transition-to-work aged youth, providing benefits planning and assistance services on request and as resources permit.

For more information:

www.ssa.gov/work/wipafactsheet.html

To find a WIPA near you:

www.ssa.gov/dallas/dalawic.htm

Medicaid Buy-In Program

The Medicaid Buy-In Program is affordable health coverage that's available to employed people with disabilities.

Now, certain Texans with disabilities are able to purchase their health insurance through Medicaid by paying a monthly premium. Those who apply for the Medicaid Buy-In program will need to be earning a paycheck and meet disability requirements as well as resource and income limits. This is a program for people who have disabilities and a desire to return to work or stay employed but are concerned about losing their health coverage when their income level exceeds Medicaid eligibility limits. Medicaid Buy-In provides access to the same services available to adult Medicaid recipients, including office visits, hospital stays, X-rays, vision services, hearing services and prescriptions.

Who might qualify?

A person who meets the disability requirements of the Social Security Administration and receives Social Security disability meets the Medicaid Buy-In disability requirement.

A person who is employed or self employed, either part-time or full-time, and earns enough to qualify for a Social Security qualifying quarter* may qualify for Medicaid Buy-In.

**defined as a three-month period ending on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 each year. Income limits change annually.*

How to Apply?

- Call 2-1-1 for a location near you
- Go to www.yourtexasbenefits.com
- Visit a local HHSC Benefits Office
- Get an application online at www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/H1200/H1200.DOC

Have Questions?

Go to www.hhsc.state.tx.us/mbi.html and click on Medicaid Buy-In Frequently Asked Questions.

Go to Employment and Disability Connections website: www.dars.state.tx.us/edc/

Employment Related Services for Texans with Disabilities

DARS offers a variety of services. Rehabilitation Services (DRS) targets individuals with physical and mental disabilities and Blind Services (DBS) focuses on individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

www.dars.state.tx.us and select "Find Services."

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Helps people with physical, mental and/or visual disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs. Work-related services are individualized and may include counseling, training, medical treatment, assistive devices, job placement assistance, and other services.

Supported Employment Services

Supports people in the Vocational Rehabilitation Program who need on-going support to maintain competitive employment.

Other Services Promoting Independence & Employment

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, in a residential/community setting, works in partnership with people who are blind toward the accomplishment of employment and independent living goals.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Helps to eliminate societal and communication barriers to improve equal access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

DeafBlind Services

Assists individuals with dual sensory loss to work and live independently.

The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services Program

Helps people with traumatic brain injuries and traumatic spinal cord injuries receive intensive therapies and facility-based treatment to improve their ability to function independently in the home and the community.



Rehabilitation Technology

The Rehab Technology Resource Center supports the Vocational Rehabilitation Program staff and services by keeping track of new equipment and engineering services designed to help people with disabilities be more independent.

The Assistive Technology Unit works in partnership with people with visual impairments to provide technology evaluations, demonstrations, training services, technical advice and information to help them reach their employment and independent living goals.

Independent Living Services

Promotes independent living and community participation by addressing the impact of disabilities on daily living activities. Services focus on self-sufficiency, adjustment to the disabling condition, and alternative ways to perform essential tasks to remain in their home and community. Independent Living services are offered via DRS, DBS, and 23 Centers for Independent Living, a network of community-based, nonresidential, cross-disability centers.

www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/il.shtml