



Answers, Choices, Possibilities

SSI WORK INCENTIVES PLAN

Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)

Using Impairment Related Work Expense allows you to keep more of your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check when you work.

Impairment Related Work Expense can be used if you are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you are working, and you have expenses that are:

- Related to a serious medical condition, and
- Needed in order for you to work, and
- Paid for by you and will not be reimbursed by another source

Examples of IRWE include:

- Out-of-pocket medical expenses like medication co-pays or medical supplies
- Adaptive equipment
- Vehicle modifications
- Personal care attendant costs
- Service animal costs
- Some transportation expenses

Why Use Impairment Related Work Expense?

Here is an example of how Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE) can make an SSI payment higher.

When Gina isn't working she receives \$674 of SSI. When Gina earns \$885, her SSI payment is \$274 per month. If she earned \$885 and had \$100 in IRWE for the month, her SSI payment would be \$324. **She would receive \$50.00 more each**

month from SSI by using a \$100 Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE).

As a general rule, the person receiving SSI who uses an IRWE will see half of the cost of the IRWE returned to them in an increased SSI payment.

When we spoke, you reported monthly expenses for the following:

Medication co-pays: \$ _____

Other: \$ _____ for _____

\$ _____ for _____

\$ _____ for _____

This is a potential Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE) and could increase your Supplemental Security Income payment when you work.

If you did not talk to anyone at the Connection, but believe that you may have Impairment Related Work Expenses, write them out on the lines provided above.

If you want to know how SSI is figured when you work and use Impairment Related Work Expense, call the Connection for more information.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Work Incentive Plan
Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE) continued

To Use Impairment Related Work Expense:

NOTES TO KEEP

1. Call your SSI Claims Representative:

Date you called your Claims Representative:

_____ at: _____

Ask if you can use any of the expenses you listed on the front page as IRWE.

What you told our Claims Representative and what they told you:

Ask what information you need to send SSI so they can approve your IRWE.

Ask how often you should send your paystubs and IRWE receipts.

2. Gather all the information the SSI Claims Representative asks you to send in. This may include a letter from your doctor (print sample form letter) and receipts for your IRWE.

Did your Claims Representative approve your IRWE? **Yes** or **No**

What do you need to send them?

3. Send all the information to the SSI Claims Representative with a note asking her/him to call to let you know if your expenses are approved.

When should you send the information in?

4. **Do not assume you get to use this IRWE until your Claims Representative says it has been approved.** Call the Connection if you have problems or questions.

Date you sent the information to SSI:

5. Keep all of your paystubs and receipts for IRWE in a safe place so they are easy to find.

For more information regarding how work will affect your government benefits call the MN Work Incentives Connection at 651-632-5113 or 1-800-976-6728.

6. Be sure to send copies of your paystubs and receipts to Social Security when they ask for them.

This information was prepared for you by the MN Work Incentives Connection. The Connection cannot guarantee that you can use the work incentive, Impairment Related Work Expense. You must get this work incentive approved by your local Social Security office by following the steps outlined above.