



Moving On Up With MEPD

Winter 2009

WELCOME TO “Moving on Up with MEPD”

MEPD (Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities) allows you to earn money for work and maintain your savings in the bank, which would normally put you over the limit to receive Medicaid. This newsletter is sent to all MEPD Medicaid members.

You get **Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD)** because you:

- Have a disability
- Are earning money from work
- Are under 65 years old

Remember, these things you need to tell your county worker:

- When you stop working
- When you earn more money
- When you earn less money
- When you move to a new address

Iowa Rental Help Now Available New Financial Assistance for Iowa Families

New help is available to Iowa families who are struggling to pay the rent and who may be facing eviction. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the state of Iowa received approximately \$11 million for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), administers the program in Iowa.

Iowa Rental Help offers a variety of financial assistance tools to qualified renters. Assistance can include help with rent and utility payments for up to a total of eighteen months, (including up to six months in arrears), moving expenses, security deposits, rental deposits and more.

Qualified homeowners who are moving into rental units can also access the funds to assist them with eligible costs. Homeless individuals and families who seek permanent rental housing can qualify too.

When individuals contact Iowa Rental Help they will be connected with a case manager in their area to schedule a consultation to determine whether they qualify. They will also determine the assistance that will best benefit them. The case manager will then meet with them every six months to reassess the situation. After a maximum of 18 months in the program, the goal is that Iowa Rental Help recipients will have gained stability as well as adequate housing.

To learn more about the program, visit www.IowaRentalHelp.com. Iowans seeking Iowa Rental Help services can call toll-free: 877.386.9104 or text RENT to 30644.



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RENTAL
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE)

For People with Disabilities Who Want to Become Employed

Each month Iowa's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, with assistance from the Social Security Administration, Iowa's Work Incentive Planning & Assistance project, and Iowa's Disability Program Navigators sponsors workshops related to work and community living options for people with disabilities at different locations throughout the state.

Work Incentive Planning & Assistance staff present information about Social Security Work Incentives and other community supports available to working Iowans with disabilities. The Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE) addresses questions such as:

- Can I work and still keep my Social Security benefits?
- Can I work and still keep my healthcare benefits?
- What do I need to know about using Work Incentives that will help me be as prosperous as possible?
- What local resources exist that will help me find and keep a job?

Information is offered about Iowa's Home and Community Based Services that can assist people with disabilities with work AND community living. Iowa's new "Self-Directed" option, Community Choices Option, is also featured with information about how people with disabilities can direct their own services and supports.

In addition, information is available about public services options -- such as AmeriCorp -- that can help build work experience and skills and public housing options -- like HUD -- that can support working people with disabilities

Participation is free and voluntary. **WISE** workshops run from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. People are invited to attend all of the workshop or part of the workshop. Mileage expenses can be reimbursed.

The following **Work Incentive Seminar Events** are scheduled for 2010:

January 14	Des Moines
February 11	Spencer
March 11	Council Bluffs
April 8	Waterloo
May 13	Burlington
June 10	Sioux City
July 8	Centerville
August 12	Dubuque

For more information go to <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/HCBS/MemberEvents.html> or call 1-800-338-8366 or 1-888-409-0283.

Self Employment: People Who Own Themselves

This popular two-day workshop combines the principles of business ownership with information about how income generated from self-employment can impact Social Security and other public assistance benefits.

Molly Sullivan or Beth Keeton, Associates with Griffin-Hammis Associates, conducts Iowa's Self-Employment workshops. Griffin-Hammis are national experts on self-employment for people with disabilities.

Self Employment workshop participants are invited to sign up for individual brainstorming sessions with Molly Sullivan or Beth Keeton and staff from Iowa's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program. Participants receive feedback about their business start-up idea, information about the potential impact that earned income may have on their benefits, and suggestions about helpful resources.

Registration is free, although space is limited to the first 25 people who register -- so register early. Lunch is provided; mileage and personal assistance services can be reimbursed. To register, call toll-free **888-409-0283**.

The following **Self Employment** workshops are scheduled for 2010:

March 29 & 30	Des Moines
April 1 & 2	Iowa City
May 17 & 18	Sioux City
May 20 & 21	Council Bluffs
July 12 & 13	Des Moines
July 15 & 16	Waterloo
September 13 & 14	Dubuque
September 16 & 17	Davenport

For more information go to <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/HCBS/MemberEvents.html> or call 1-888-409-0283 or www.socialsecurity.gov/wise.html or call 877-743-8237.

Iowa's Work Incentive Planning & Assistance provides information about Social Security Work Incentives and other state and local programs that support working people with disabilities. They assist people who receive Social Security or Medicaid benefits to understand the options available to make informed choices about returning to work. For more information call toll free 877-424-9472 or 866-528-4019 or iowawpa@iwd.iowa.gov.

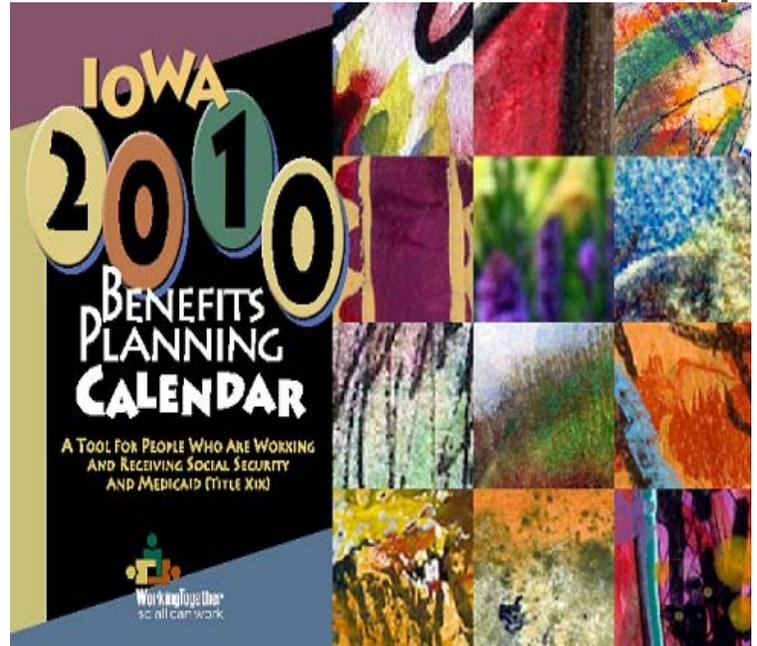
Now Available!

2010 Work Incentive and Benefits Planning Calendars

Iowa's 2010 Work Incentive of the Month wall calendar highlights 13 Social Security Work Incentives or other community supports available to Iowans who want to work, but who worry that earning wages will bring about the loss of Medicaid/Title XIX healthcare and Social Security cash benefits.

Each month the 2010 Work Incentive of the Month wall calendar showcases a Social Security Work Incentive such as Ticket-to-Work, Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS), or Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE) or community or federal program that supports working Iowans with disabilities such as MEPD, Earned Income Tax Credit, or housing programs that support working people with disabilities, etc.

Each month has space to document earnings and deductible expenses related to work and disability – and to document the reporting of that information to Social Security. The 2010 Work Incentive calendar provides one pouch so people can store pay stubs, receipts, and other important information.



Artwork provided VSA/Iowa affiliated artists is on the cover of the 2010 Work Incentive wall calendar as well as each month. Thirteen working artists with disabilities are featured in all.

The 2010 Benefits Planner calendar was created in a smaller, on-the-go version. The Benefits Planner calendar includes pouches for each month so that people can store important information such as pay stubs and receipts. It was designed to allow Social Security recipients who are working, or who anticipate working soon, to carefully track earnings and expenses each month.

Contact information for local and national resources and services that support working people with disabilities is included in both calendar versions.

If you would like a copy of either calendar mailed to you, free of charge, please email srenner@dhs.state.ia.us or call toll free 888-409-0283. Be sure to provide your complete mailing information.

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People with disabilities, advocates, policy administrators, employers, and medical professionals working together to enhance opportunities for Iowans with disabilities to work and live as they choose.