**Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)**

**Who are we?**

* WIPA is a grant funded program sponsored by the Social Security Administration.
* Provide work incentives planning and assistance services to Social Security beneficiaries who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), who want to pursue gainful employment/self-employment.
* Disability Rights IOWA (DRI) staff members who provide WIPA services are called Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs).
* Certified CWICs through Virginia Common Wealth University (VCU is also our technical support).

**Levels of Service:**

* Information & Referral
	+ Answer basic work incentive questions.
	+ Typically handled by the Ticket Helpline **1-866-968-7842****.**
	+ At this level of service typically there is no verification of benefits received.
* WIPA Intensive Services
	+ Case management, required to request a BPQY.
	+ Clarify beneficiary understands Work Incentives associated with their benefits.
	+ Identify prior work incentive use.
	+ Reiterate how and when to report.
	+ Write a Benefits Analysis and Summary regarding how earnings affect SSI/SSDI and all other programs, such as health care, food assistance, housing, Waiver Services, etc.

**WIPA Eligibility:**

* –At least age 14, but not yet full retirement age
* –Disabled per Social Security’s definition, and
* –Already receiving (or approved to receive) Social Security benefits based on disability (SSI or a Title II disability benefit such as SSDI, CDB or DWB).

**Focus areas:**

* Transition aged youth
* Veterans