

## **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 Commonwealth 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](tel: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).