



Plan to Work

Shining a light on your path to employment

Winter 2011

Alternate formats available upon request—Call 866-497-9443

2012 COLA News

Social Security recently released some news that affects just about everyone on disability benefits:

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2008 through the third quarter of 2011, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 3.6 percent COLA for 2012.

In other words, for the first time since 2009, there will be a Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2012! The following charts show some of the amounts that may affect you. As you can see, many benefits and work incentives will increase; if you're using a work incentive not listed below, contact Plan to Work for information about any changes to that benefit.

For additional information about the 2012 COLA, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/cola. There, you can find specific information about how COLAs are determined, and how they impact a variety of benefits, thresholds, and work incentives.

| Social Security Disability Thresholds: | | 2011 | 2012 |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) | Non-Blind | \$1,000/month | \$1,010/month |
| | Blind | \$1,640/month | \$1,690/month |
| Trial Work Period (TWP) | | \$ 720/month | \$ 720/month |
| Maximum Social Security Benefit | | \$2,366/month | \$2,513/month |

| SSI Amounts: | | 2011 | 2012 |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Individual Federal Standard | | \$ 674/month | \$ 698/month |
| Couple Federal Standard | | \$1,011/month | \$1,048/month |
| Resource Limits (Individual/Couple) | | \$2,000/\$3,000 | \$2,000/\$3,000 |
| Student Earned Income Exclusion | | \$1,640/month | \$1,700/month |
| Student Earned Income Exclusion Annual Limit | | \$6,600/year | \$6,840/year |

Medicare's Part B Premium for 2012 is \$99.90. For some, this will be an increase from \$96.40, but if you started paying for Part B in 2010 or 2011, your premium will actually *decrease* from the amount you have been paying (\$110.50 or \$115.40)!

For more information about Medicare changes in 2012, go to <http://www.medicare.gov/cost/>.

Upcoming Events

If you've been receiving these newsletters for a while, you know that we have usually filled this space with Social Security Work Incentives Seminar Events, or WISEs. The requirements for our events have changed, which is very exciting for us. It means more flexibility for the place, time, location, audience, and structure for our events, so be keep an eye out for our new and improved events! Visit our website, www.plantowork.org, to register for an event or to view an updated list of upcoming events.

Walla Walla, WA

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Time: 1:00 – 4:00pm
Location: Walla Walla Worksource (Empire Room)
Address: 1530 Stevens
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Audience: Anyone receiving Social Security Disability benefits, with questions about work.

Pac Mountain, WA

Date: Thursday, December 15, 2011
Time: 1:00 – 4:00pm
Location: Thurston County WorkSource (Heritage Room)
Address: 1570 Irving St. SW
Tumwater, WA 98597
Audience: Anyone receiving Social Security Disability benefits, with questions about work.

About Plan to Work

Plan to Work is funded by a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance grant from the Social Security Administration. We provide free, confidential information about how employment affects SSI and SSDI as well as other benefits. We help you understand how to use Social Security work incentives to move forward in your employment goals.

If you would like to receive this as an email to help conserve paper and reduce costs, or if you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, contact us at:

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