



MS Model Youth Transition Innovation

Employment for all students

Social Security Waivers

The following Social Security Administration (SSA) waivers were requested to be available to individuals who participate in the MYTI demonstration project and are applied on a case-by-case basis. Applicable waivers will be determined after benefits planning services are provided to the youth and family members.

- ◆ Delay effectuating a termination of benefits that results from a continuing disability review (CDR) or an age-18 medical redetermination until the individual has finished participation in the demonstration.
- ◆ Apply the student earned income exclusion without regard to a participant's age or whether they are married or the head of a household.
- ◆ Reduce SSI benefits by \$1 for every \$4 (instead of the current \$2) that an individual earns in excess of \$65. (Exclude the first \$65 of monthly earned income plus an additional 75 percent of any remaining earned income.)
- ◆ Extend current SSI policy regarding the treatment of federally-supported Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to non-federally-supported IDAs. That is:
 - Deduct from countable earned income any earnings that a participant deposits to an IDA;
 - Do not count matching deposits as income; and
 - Do not count the accounts themselves as resources.
- ◆ Allow a plan for achieving self-support (PASS) to have post-secondary education as its goal, provided that the PASS included a milestone for the development of a work goal at least one year prior to completion of the degree requirements.
- ◆ Allow a PASS to have career exploration as its goal, provided that the individual has out-of-pocket expenses that are necessary for that purpose.

As participants enter the workforce Benefits Planning Services may involve waivers such as: Social Security benefit re-determination at age 18 or retention of Medicaid support when employed in settings that do not provide required medical assistance. Needed waivers would extend for the length of time an individual is participating in the MYTI Project.



Starting Jobs in the Months of June & July:

*Jessica Becker
Stephen Jones
Chasity Leger
Tom McClendon*

Celebrating 3 years on the job!

*Rusty Fultz-July 6th
Academy Sports & Outdoors*

Minimum Wage Increase: What does it mean for you.....

Over a 2-year period, the minimum wage will be increasing from **\$5.15/hour to \$7.25/hour**, in a series of three increments:

Summer 2007– increase to \$5.85/hour

Summer of 2008-increase to \$6.55/hour

Summer of 2009– increase to \$7.25/hour

This is good news! However, any increase in income can possibly affect the benefits you are currently receiving. If you are working and your hourly wage is changing, I will be glad to discuss how this could apply to you.

I can help you to understand and manage your disability related benefits.

Call me.....



Lisa Ladner
*MYTI Benefits Specialist
Gulfport WIN Job Center
Phone 228.539.6884*

MYTI is a national Social Security demonstration project designed to assist young people to become employed through transition interventions from school to work, thereby reducing reliance on public benefits.