



MS Model Youth Transition Innovation

"Empowering Our Youth through Employment"

From your Benefits Specialist...

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The following SSA waivers are available to individuals who participate in the MYTI project and applied on a case-by-case basis. Applicable waivers will be determined after benefits planning and assistance services are provided to the youth and family members.

Following an adverse CDR or age-18 medical redetermination, SSA will assume that continued YTPD participation will increase the likelihood that the individual will remain off the disability rolls permanently once benefits stop. Case-by-case likelihood determinations will not be made.

The student earned income exclusion (SEIE) applies to any YTPD participant who regularly attends school, regardless of whether he or she is age 22 or over, married, or the head of a household. That is, the student does not have to be a child.

SSA will exclude the first \$65 plus an additional 75 percent (\$3 for every \$4 over \$65) of gross wages or net earnings from self-employment (NESE).

The exclusions that apply to TANF and AFIA IDAs apply to any other IDA program in which YTPD participants take part. That is:

Earnings deposited in IDA are deducted from gross wages or NESE.

Matching deposits are excluded from income.

All interest earned by the account is excluded from income.

The entire account balance (including interest) is excluded from resources.

Disbursements from the account for a qualified purpose (as defined by the IDA program) are excluded from income. Emergency withdrawals are loans and therefore are not income.

Ordinarily a plan to achieve self-support (PASS) must specify an occupational goal and is limited to one plan per occupational goal. Under this waiver, SSA will approve an otherwise satisfactory PASS that has either career exploration or postsecondary education as its goal. A person may investigate and attempt several types of training and/of jobs before deciding on an occupation. The only element of a PASS that is affected by this waiver is the initial goal.

Each month I will discuss a waiver and how it can affect you and your family. Please contact me if you have questions

You do not need to wait until you see the waiver in the newsletter to ask your questions.

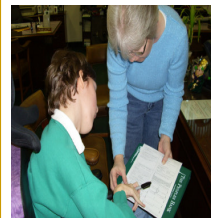
As we venture into a new year let us reflect on SUCCESS.....

I first met Stacey in her junior year of high school. As her circle of support was developed, it was discovered that Stacey enjoyed painting and being around people. During the employment planning phase, Stacey and her family decided to pursue her love of painting. They decided to help her start her own business, "Little Sister's Ceramics."



In September 2007, with the assistance of family, Stacey's counselor helped develop a business plan and business-labor analysis plan. With additional funds made available from her MYTI Student Budget and equipment donated from a local business, Stacey was able to have products available to sell as early as November 1, 2007. Stacey's dream job was quickly taking shape.

As Stacey's business plan began to develop, I sat down with her and her family to discuss the SSA work incentives to assist her with her employment efforts. Since Stacey receives SSI and is a full-time high school student under age 22, her earnings are presently being excluded from countable income using the Student Earned Income Exclusion. We also discussed the options of writing a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) versus using her earnings to start an Individual Development Account (IDA). With additional business items being needed and a desire to open a Studio, Stacey will need to seek future resources to help her business reach its full potential. Stacey and her family felt that participation in an IDA account would be a beneficial support to maximize her new business' potential.



By utilizing an IDA account, Stacey is able to save her earnings and have those savings matched at a rate of \$4 for every \$1 saved through an Assets for Independence IDA grant.

Through her new business, Stacey is asserting her independence, making money, and making choices. Stacey is on her way to becoming a successful businesswoman in her community.

Stacey's pieces can be viewed at myspace.com by searching for Mississippi Quilts and then linking to her myspace page.

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.