



MS Model Youth Transition Innovation

"Empowering Our Youth through Employment"

From your Benefits Specialist...

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As the end of the 2007-2008 School Year approaches there are a few things that the "working" student and/or parent needs to know.....

What happens to the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) over Vacations or the Summer Break?

An individual remains a student for the purposes of the SEIE when classes are out if he/she actually attends classes regularly just before the time classes are out and:

- tells SSA that he/she intends to resume attending regularly when school reopens; or
- actually does resume attending regularly when school reopens.

For most students, this would allow the SEIE to be applied to summer employment when school is not in session. When an SSI recipient graduates from school and does not intend to resume school later, the SEIE will apply for the last month during which school was attended, then stop. When a student changes intent to return, and does not return to school, the individual is no longer considered a student effective with the month the intent changed.

Where are we with the Minimum Wage Increases and What does it mean for you?

Over a 2-year period, the minimum wage has been 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 (We are Here!)

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,**

Call me to see how this might affect you....

- **working, plan to work this summer and will be returning to school in August 2008,**

Call me as you will need to get something in writing from your school that states you are returning to school next year.

MYPAC

Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock
An alternative to psychiatric residential treatment facilities

What is MYPAC?

Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (MYPAC) is a home and community-based Medicaid waiver program.

MYPAC provides an array of services for Mississippi youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). It is a program that provides alternate services to traditional Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF).

Who is eligible?

Youth may be eligible for the MYPAC program if:

- * They meet the clinical criteria for PRTF admission.
- * They are under age 21.
- * They meet the financial criteria for Medicaid.

I'm interested in MYPAC. What do I do now?

If you are interested in finding out more about MYPAC services, contact the Division of Medicaid Bureau of Mental Health Programs, MYPAC Division, at 601-359-9536.

MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

Financial Literacy Classes

May 7, 2008 2PM-3PM at Mercy Housing

May 12, 2008 2PM-4PM at Gulfport WIN Job Center

May 14, 2008 2pm-3pm at Mercy Housing

May 19, 2008 2PM-4PM at Gulfport WIN Job Center

Economic Stimulus Payment

Deadline to file is.....October 15, 2008

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.