

Working Disabled Examples

Example 1: Jimmy has a disabling medical condition, but still works when he is able. He is uninsured, and needs help with medical bills. He applies for Working Disabled and gets Medicaid in a few months, instead of applying for Social Security Disability and waiting two or more years for Medicare.

Example 2: Martha has a disability and works part-time. She lost her SSI benefits and Medicaid when she got married. She may qualify for Working Disabled because her husband's income is not counted.

Example 3: Joe has a disability and works. He earns \$3,000/month from work. Joe qualifies for Working Disabled because only half of his salary is counted.

Example 4: Bobby is 17 and lives with his parents. He has a disability and works. He is not eligible for SSI because his parents earn too much. He is able to qualify for Working Disabled because his parents' income is not counted.

Example 5: Jerry has a disability and works. His Social Security benefits stopped due to earnings but he still has Medicare. He also qualifies for Working Disabled Medicaid, which pays his Medicare premiums, deductibles and co-pays and covers some services not covered by Medicare.



Working Disabled

MEDICAID

Health care you can take to work

- Work and earn a living
- Save for the future
- And have health care coverage



Healthy Arkansas
For a Better State of Health

 **DHHS**
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Work, Save and Keep Your Health Benefits

Many Arkansans with disabilities want to work but can't afford to lose their Medicaid or Medicare health benefits. Working Disabled Medicaid gives individuals the opportunity to work, **earn a good income, save for the future and have Medicaid health care benefits.**

Working Disabled is intended for people with disabilities who support themselves by work, rather than by disability benefits. This program covers only the individual with a disability, and does not provide family coverage.

Who Qualifies for Working Disabled Medicaid?

Age

You must be at least 16 and less than 65.

Disability

You must have a significant disability expected to last 12 months or longer, based on Social Security guidelines. Unlike Social Security, you may work full-time and earn more than the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) limit. The SGA is \$860/month in 2006.

Work

You must be working, and provide proof that your work income is reported to the IRS. Paycheck stubs, tax returns, Form 1099 or quarterly estimated tax receipts for self-employment could be used to prove that you work.

Income

Only the applicant's income is counted for this program. Income of the spouse and other family members is not counted. There are two income limits which apply to all applicants:

1. Your **Non-Work Income** may not exceed the SSI individual benefit plus \$20 (\$603 + \$20 = \$623/month in 2006), regardless of your family size. Non-Work Income is income such as Social Security, worker's compensation, VA benefits or interest on your bank account.

Working Disabled Medicaid covers Arkansans ages 16 through 64 who:

- Meet the Social Security/SSI disability definition
- Work and have work income reported to the IRS
- Receive LITTLE OR NO disability benefits
- Need health care coverage or home and community services

2. Your **Net Personal Income** must be less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level for your family size. Net Personal Income is ALL of your Non-Work Income plus HALF of your Work Income (wages, salary, income from your business).

For a single person, 250% of the 2006 Federal Poverty Level is \$2,041/month.

How much can I earn from work?

A single person without any Non-Work Income can earn up to \$4,000/month from work because only half of work income is counted: $\$4,000 \div 2 = \$2,000$ which is less than the income limit.

A single person with \$500 per month in Non-Work Income can earn up to \$3,000/month from work: $\$3,000 \div 2 = 1,500 + 500 = \$2,000$ which is less than the income limit.

The limit on your Net Personal Income is higher if you are married or have children under 18 at home. Income of your spouse or child(ren) is not counted.

Resource Limits

Your **Countable Resources** (cash, savings, investments, and property other than your home and household goods) must be less than \$4,000 for a single person, or \$6,000 for a couple, plus \$200 for each additional person. Only resources belonging to you and your spouse are counted.

Your home, household goods and one car are not counted. A second car is allowed if your spouse needs it to work. Retirement accounts such as IRAs, pensions and 401Ks are not counted. Additional funds may be saved in an Approved Account (see below).

Save for Your Future and Self-sufficiency

You can also save up to \$10,000 in a special Approved Account, approved by DHHS. The account must be separate from your regular checking or savings account. This account can be used for expenses to help you work or become more independent, such as:

- Education that helps you work and live independently
- Work-related expenses, such as job accommodations, tools, service animals or starting a business
- Home purchase, construction and/or modification
- Vehicle purchases, modification, maintenance or repair
- Medical expenses (such as dental care) not covered by Medicaid

Medicaid Services

Medicaid covers a wide range of health care services, including doctor visits, hospital care, prescription drugs and therapy. Medicaid also covers personal care and other home and community services. There are no premiums, but there are co-pays for most services, such as \$10 for doctor visit.

If you already have Medicare, Medicaid will pay your Medicare premiums, deductibles and co-pays and cover services, such as personal care, that are not covered by Medicare or health insurance. Medicaid can also provide secondary coverage for other insurance coverage.

Applying for Working Disabled

Contact the local Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services County Office for an application and interview. Keep a copy of your application. Financial eligibility should be determined within 45 days. If you have not received Social Security Disability or SSI benefits in the last 12 months, your disability must be verified, which may take up to 90 days.

If you have problems applying, call the Employment Sources Hotline, toll-free, 1-866-283-7900.

Workers with Disabilities Have Other Options

- If you receive SSI or Social Security Disability, you may be able to work part-time and continue to receive your disability check.
- If you work full-time, you may be able to continue to receive Medicare and/or Medicaid, if your disability continues.
- If you work and have Medicare only, you may be able to qualify for Working Disabled Medicaid.

For more information, call the Social Security Administration or the Employment Sources Hotline, 1-866-283-7900.

Before You Get A Job, Get Advice

If you are currently receiving disability benefits, going to work may affect your benefits. That's why it's important to talk to a benefits counselor before looking for work. Free, confidential counseling is available by calling the Employment Sources Hotline, 1-866-283-7900.