



# Medicaid and Working

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Work Ability Utah



# Why is Medicaid Important?

- Everyone wants health care coverage
- Medicaid rules about working and assets can be confusing

Choices about employment and lifestyle are often made without a full understanding of the many rules. Some of those very rules empower people to have increased earnings and improved quality of life.



# Medicaid Work Incentives

- Expands work options for people with disabilities.
- Support mechanism so that individuals with disabilities do not continue to be segregated and isolated.
- Individuals with disabilities become more self-sufficient.



# Medicaid and Working Myths

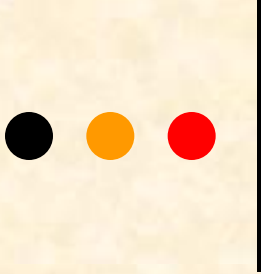
- If I go to work, I'll lose my Medicaid.
- If I earn more than \$900, I'll lose my Medicaid.
- I can't 'buy' a Medicaid card.
- I have to receive money from Social Security to get Medicaid.

***Dispel the Myths!***



# What is Disability Medicaid?

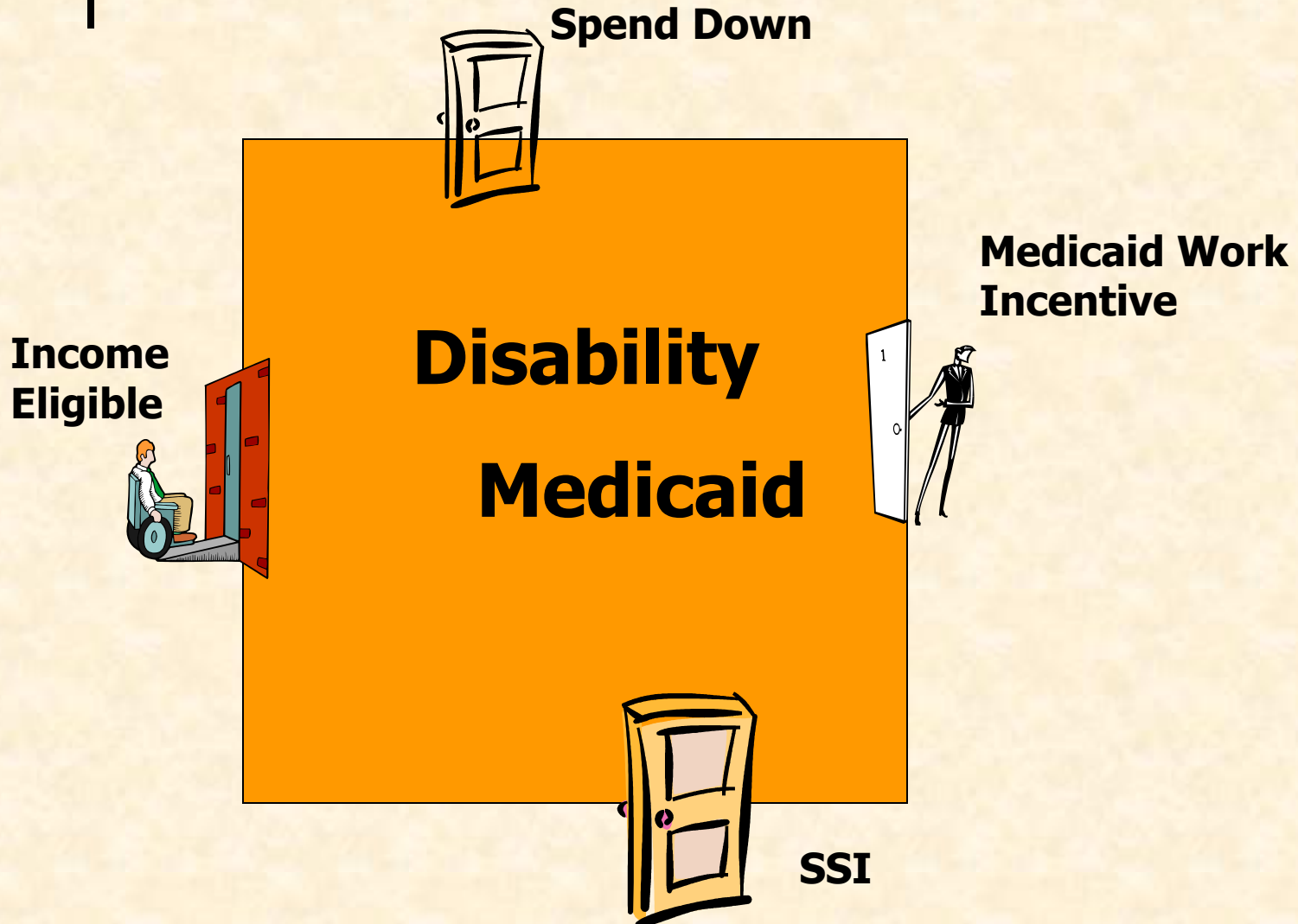
- o Medical coverage for people with disabilities in Utah who meet eligibility requirements



# How Do You Get Disability Medicaid?

- Have a disability, as determined by Social Security or the State Medical Review Board (MRB), and
- Meet specific eligibility requirements (which will be covered in the rest of the presentation), and
- Apply
  - Online at <https://utahclicks.org/uas/>
  - In person at the nearest DWS office
  - Mail or fax application into DWS Centralized Imaging Unit

# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid



# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid

**Income  
Eligible**



**Disability  
Medicaid**





## **Door One:**

### *Income Eligible for Medicaid*

**A person can get on Disability Medicaid if they:**

- Have a disability (per SSA or MRB)
- Have assets below \$2000 for a single person, \$3000 for married couple, *and*
- Have countable income below the poverty level for their household size



# Door One:

## *Income Eligible* Asset Test

- **Some of the assets they *DON'T* count:**
  - The house they live in
  - One car (the one with the highest equity value is usually excluded)
  - Most personal household items, like their clothes, shoes, wedding ring, TV, personal computer, kitchen table, etc. (unless there are more big ticket items, like a grand piano)
  - Burial funds, or burial plots
  - Medical equipment related to their disability (wheelchairs, prosthetics, etc.)



# Door One:

## *Income Eligible* Asset Test

### o **Some of the assets they DO count:**

- Most real or personal property
  - Any money they have in checking and/or savings accounts,
  - Retirement accounts (401k, IRA, etc),
  - Most trust funds (except special needs trusts)
  - More than one car, recreational vehicles, boats
  - Second or third home
  - Items collected or held for their investment value, like a coin or stamp collection



# Door One:

## *Income Eligible* Asset Exercise

### o **What Does and Does Not Count as an Asset?**

- If they have a \$4000 wedding ring?
- If they have a coin collection valued at \$12,000?
- If they have a motorized wheelchair worth \$9000?
- If they have a personal computer that cost about \$1000?
- If they own the home they live in and some property up in the mountains?
- If they own a car that someone else uses to transport them to work and school?
- If they own a boat worth about \$7,000?
- If they have \$100,000 in a special needs trust?
- If they have \$1800 in their savings account and \$1700 in their checking account?

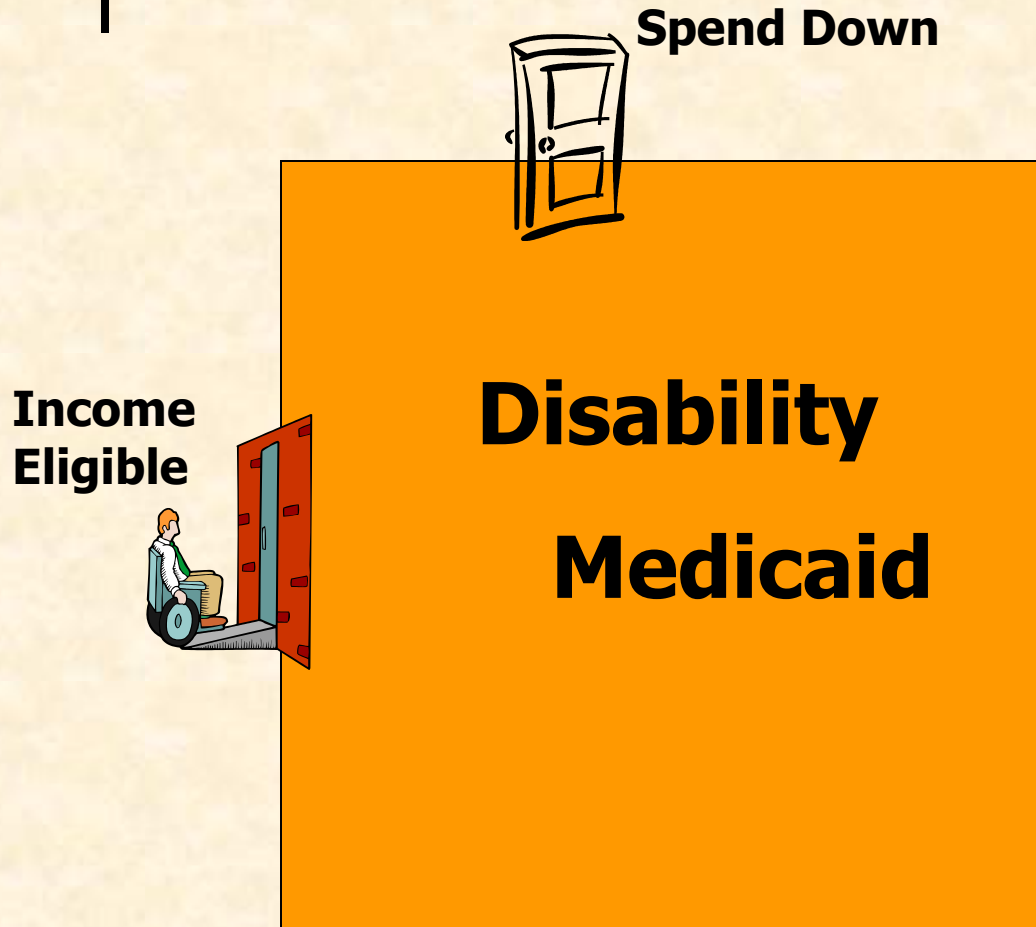


# Door One:

## *Income Eligible* Income Test

- Must have countable income below the poverty level for their household size
  - Countable income is what the State counts as the person's income, after all of the various deductions are taken
    - Income limit charts can be misleading because of all the deductions that might be taken
    - Disability Medicaid counts earned and unearned income differently than some of the other Medicaid programs

# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid





## Door Two:

### *Pay a Spend Down*

- If someone's countable unearned income is over the poverty level, they can pay a spend down to get on Disability Medicaid
  - They must have a disability
  - They must also have assets below \$2000 for a single person, \$3000 for married couple
  - They must pay the spend down, either in cash or through medical bills
- The spend down amount is the difference between the person's countable income and the poverty level.

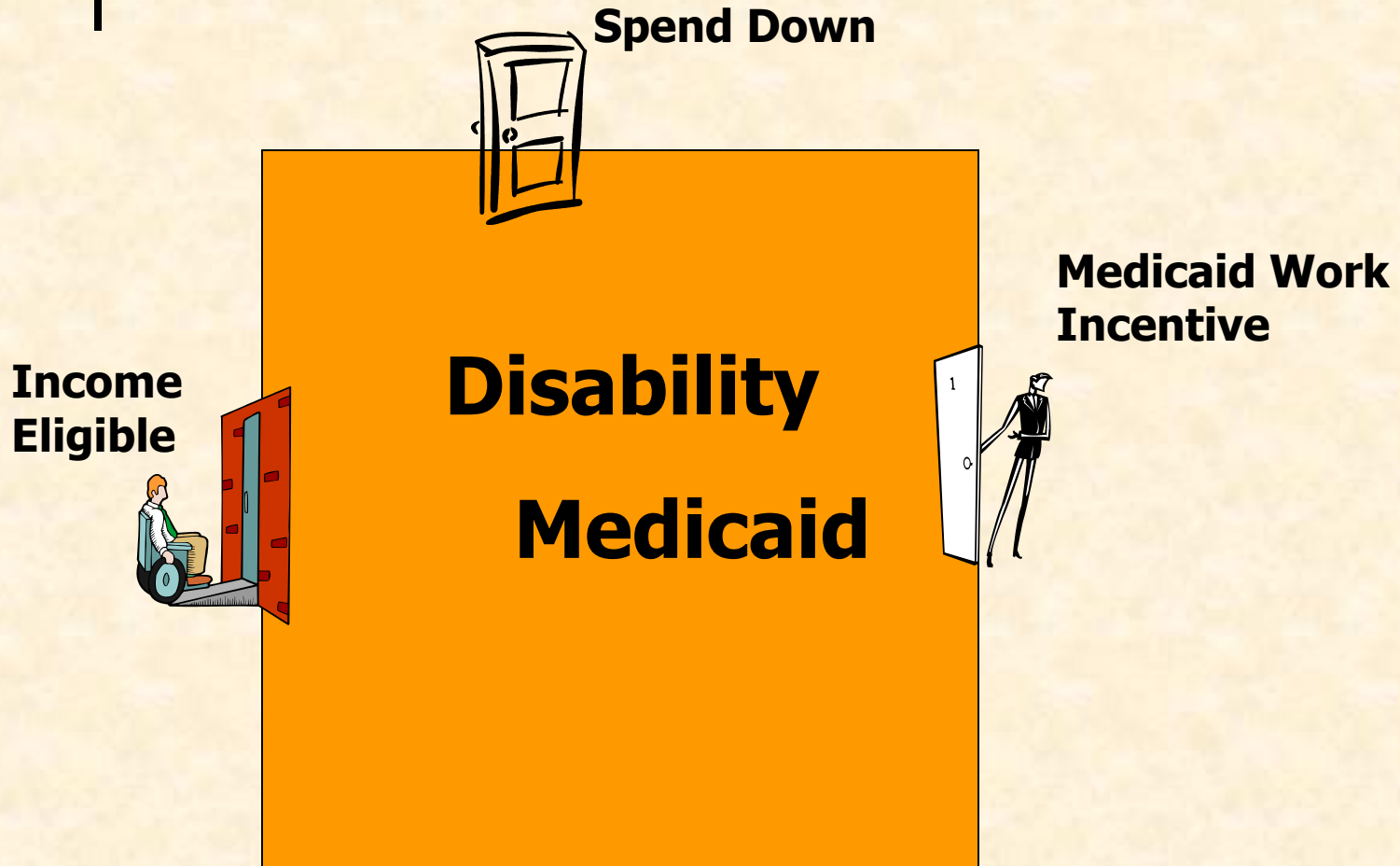
## Door Two:

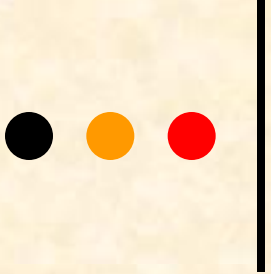
# When Should People Pay a Spend Down?

- When a person's out of pocket costs are lower than their spend down amount, it is generally more cost effective to simply pay out of pocket.
  - If Will currently pays about \$50/mo for his prescription drugs and other medical expenses, should he pay the \$113/mo spend down?
  - But, what if Will wants to start going to weekly therapy at Weber Human Services/Mental Health?
  - What if Will has a surgery coming up? Or needs some dental work done?



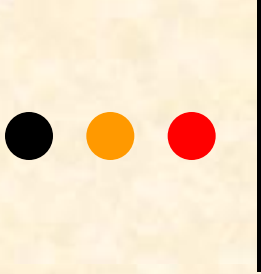
# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid





## **Door Three: *The Medicaid Work Incentive Program***

- The Medicaid Work Incentive Program (MWI) allows people with disabilities to have a higher income and asset limit, and still be able to acquire Disability Medicaid
- Anybody on Disability Medicaid who has earned income is on the MWI program, even if they don't know it.



## **Door Three: *The Medicaid Work Incentive Program***

**A person can get on Disability Medicaid through the Medicaid Work Incentive Program (MWI) if they:**

- Have a disability (per SSA or MRB),
- Have some earned income,
- Have assets below \$15,000,
- Have countable income below 250% of the poverty level for their household size, *and*
- Pay the monthly MWI premium, if applicable



# Door Three: *MWI* Asset Test

- o Aside from the asset limit being higher for MWI (\$15,000), they apply the same asset rules for MWI as they do for the other doors into Medicaid, with two big exceptions:



# Door Three: *MWI* Asset Test

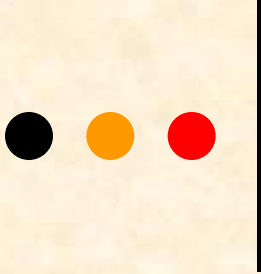
- They do not count any retirement funds or accounts toward the \$15,000 asset limit, including any 401k, IRA, employer pension plan, etc.
  - People can continue to contribute to their retirement accounts while on MWI
  - AND, the retirement account stays exempt even if the MWI person stops working and goes through another doorway to get in Medicaid.



# Door Three:

## *MWI* Asset Test

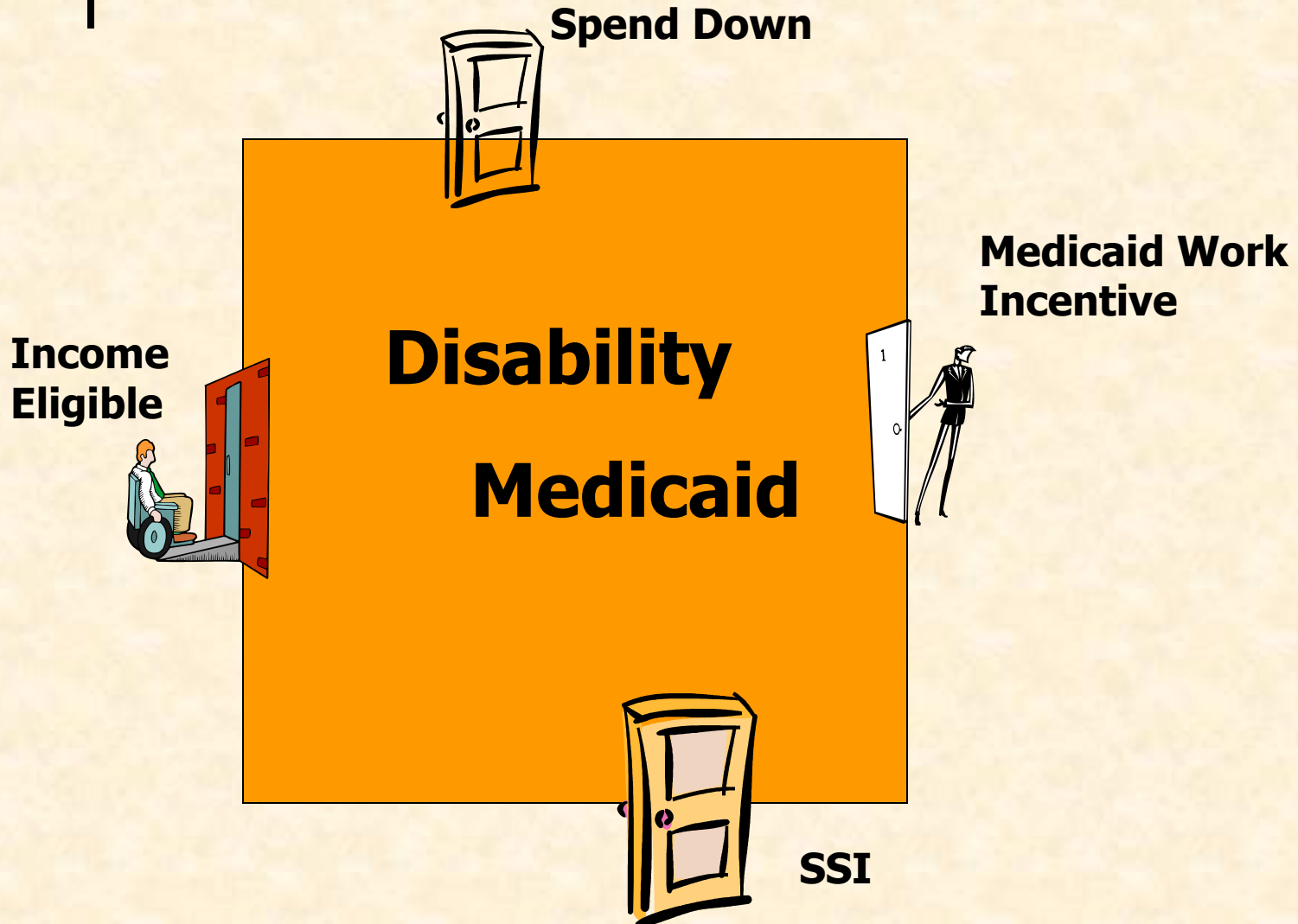
- They do not count a second vehicle when it is used by the MWI person's spouse or child to get to work.
  - This vehicle stays exempt even if the MWI person stops working and goes through another doorway, so long as the spouse or child continues to use the second vehicle for work.



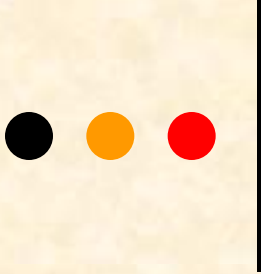
# Door Three: *MWI* Income Test

- Must have countable income below 250% of the poverty level for their household size
  - We already know how they treat unearned income, (dollar for dollar)
  - And the good news is, they are more generous with earned income (they count a little less than half of it)

# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid







## **Door Four:** *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*

- SSI is **Supplemental Security Income**. It is also known as Title XVI.
- SSI is a needs-based benefit intended for those who are aged, blind or disabled who have little or no income and resources and no significant work history.



## **Door Four: *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)***

**People who are on SSI automatically qualify for free Disability Medicaid in Utah. To be eligible for SSI, you must:**

- Have a disability (per SSA),
- Have assets below \$2000 for a single person, \$3000 for married couple, *and*
- Have countable earned income below the 1619(b) state threshold amount.
- Meet all other SSI requirements



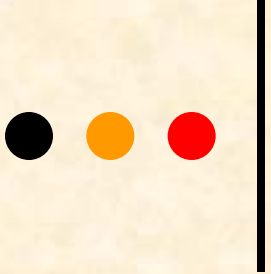
## **Door Four: *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)***

- o Because SSI is a needs-based program, geared to give a person enough money to meet basic needs, like food and shelter, if people have other income or food/shelter help coming in they don't need Social Security to supplement them as much



## **Door Four: *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)***

- SSI is based on what's called the Federal Benefit Rate (**FBR**).
- For 2009, the FBR is **\$674**. If you are a couple and recipients of SSI, the FBR is \$1011 in 2009.
- Other states have additional State Supplemental Payments; UT does not really.



# Door Four: *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*

- SSI uses the same calculations for earned and unearned income that Medicaid does
  - So, SSI only counts a little less than half of what someone makes
- The more people work, the more their SSI cash benefit is affected (though they will probably have more total monthly income by working).
  - But, if they work so much that they lose their cash benefit, though they may no longer be in cash status, they can go into 1619(b) status where they are still on SSI, but are in Medicaid-only status.
  - And, they can earn up to \$28,860/yr and still keep their free Disability Medicaid!

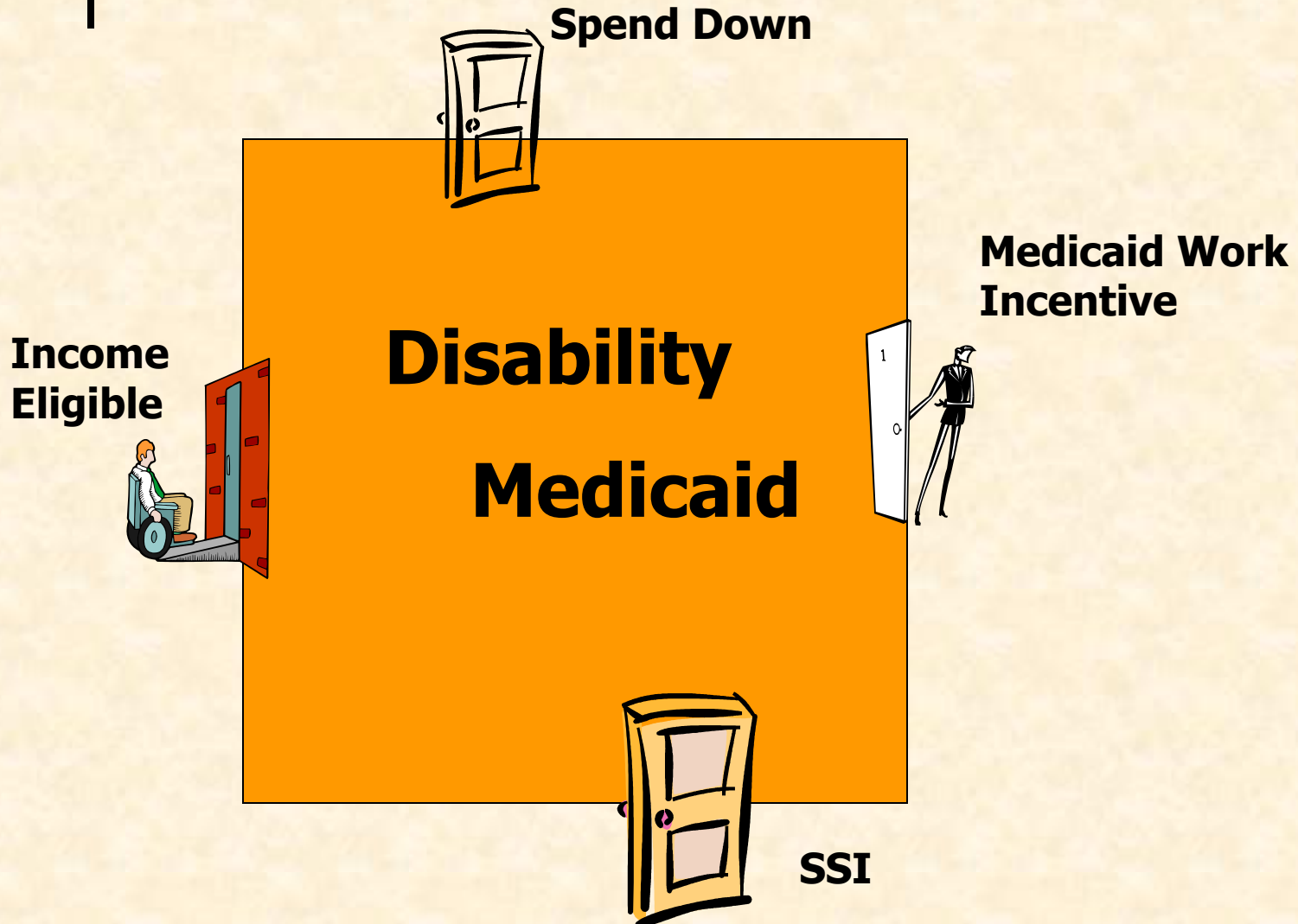


# **1619 (b) for SSI only**

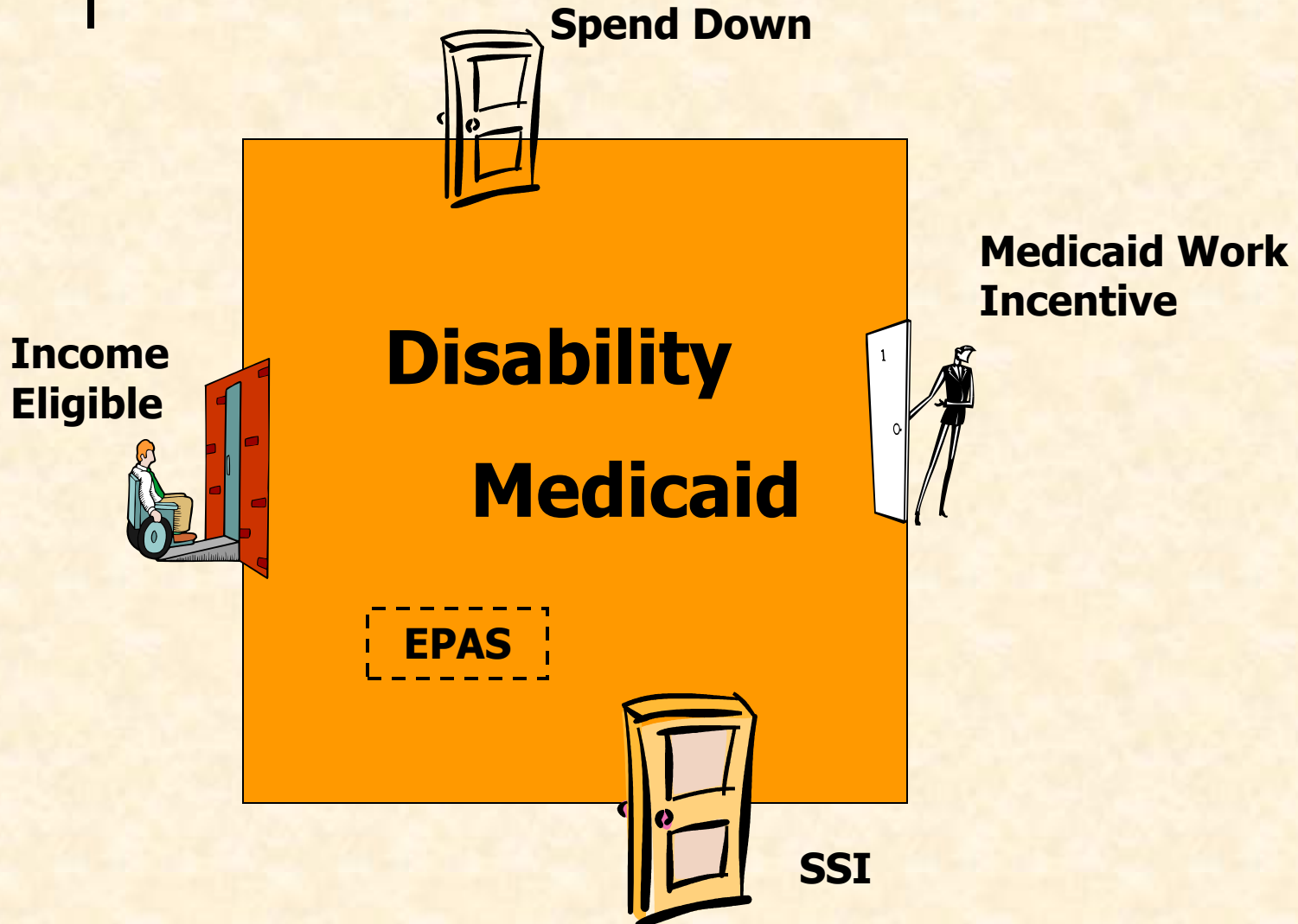
## **To Qualify for 1619 (b), Individuals Must:**

- Have SSI cash benefit the month before 1619 (b) eligibility;
- Have gross earnings below state threshold amounts (<\$28,860.00 per year in 2009);
- Under age 65, but still experience a disability or be blind;
- Meet all other requirements for SSI payments other than earnings;
- Asset test of < \$2,000 remains; and
- Need Medicaid in order to work.

# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid



# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid







# Employment Personal Assistance Services

- Eligible for Medicaid
- Have a disability (according to Social Security or Medicaid)
- Work at least 40 hours per month
- Need personal assistance in order to work



# EPAS Services

## **The assistant, at home or at work could:**

- Help with personal tasks to get ready for work
  - Bathing, eating, dressing, mobility, transferring
- Reminders to take medications



# EPAS Services

## **The assistant, at home or at work could:**

- Help with household tasks like
  - Housework, shopping, laundry, money management
- Help with transportation to work



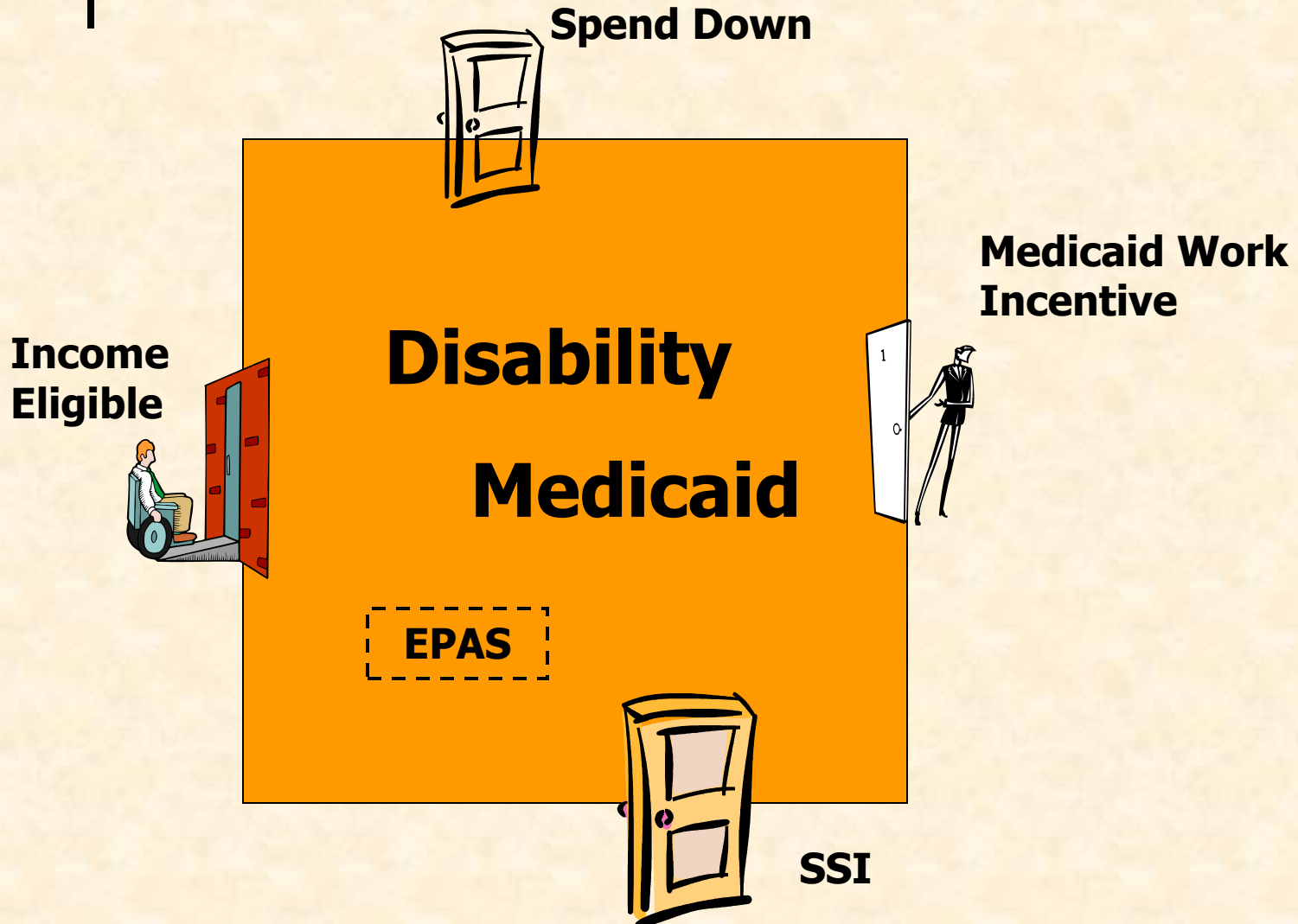
# EPAS Services

- Hire individuals as personal assistants, and use a fiscal management service to complete all paperwork,

OR

- Hire a home health care agency

# Four Doors into Disability Medicaid





# Health Care Resources

## CHIP – Children Health Insurance Program

- For children who do not currently have health insurance.
- Family income and size are considered

1-877-KIDS-NOW    <http://health.utah.gov/chip/>



# Health Care Resources

## **UPP – Utah's Premium Partnership**

- For adults and children who do not currently have health insurance, but who have access to health insurance through the employer and need assistance to pay their portion of the premium.
- A company's insurance is based on overall company risk and employee pool, not the individual's health

1-888-222-2542    <http://health.utah.gov/upp/>



# Health Care Resources

## PCN – Primary Care Network

- o Health care through primary care physicians and includes visits, dental, lab work, immunizations, ER visits, etc.
- o Enrollment currently closed

1-888-222-2542    <http://health.utah.gov/pcn>

**Not currently available**





# Other Resources

*Think Prescriptions!*

211 Info Bank, a program of Community Services Council, is a free information and referral line for health, human and community services. 211 provides information and referral on topics such as emergency food pantries, rental assistance, public health clinics, child care resources, support groups, legal aid, and a variety of non-profit and governmental agencies.

Utah Food Bank Services  
1025 South 700 West, Salt Lake City UT 84104  
(801) 887-1226 or dial 2-1-1  
<http://www.informationandreferral.org/>



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I N F O  
B A N K



# Medicaid and Working

It can work for you!!

## Questions?



# Thank you!

Please complete  
your evaluation!



Work Ability Utah  
Medicaid Infrastructure Grant  
# 1QACMS030319