



MOPD Benefits Counseling Program

Most Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the difference between SSI and SSDI?

- **SSI** (Supplemental Security Income) provides cash benefits for people who are disabled, with little or no work history, who have low-income and resources.
- **SSDI** (Social Security Disability Insurance) provides cash benefits for people who are disabled that have a work history and paid into the Social Security (FICA) tax system.

2) What is a CPWIC?

- CPWIC or Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor is a person who has taken specific training to become a certified counselor who can help you understand how working may affect your federal, state and local benefits.

3) What are Work Incentives?

- These are rules set by the federal government that make it possible for people with disabilities who receive SSI or SSDI to work and still receive monthly cash benefits as well as Medicare or Medicaid.

4) What happens to my SSDI and Medicare if I work?

- There are certain work incentives where you may be able to keep your SSDI and Medicare when you work. A MOPD Benefits

Counselor can provide more information specific to your situation.

5) Will I lose SSI and Medicaid when I work?

- Not necessarily. There are work incentives available to you where you can still keep some of your SSI and Medicaid. Contact a MOPD Benefits counselor to learn more.

6) What happens if I stop working? Will I have to re-apply?

- No, you will not have to reapply. You will just have to contact Social Security and a MOPD Benefits Counselor can walk you through the process.

7) Do I have to tell Social Security that I am working?

- Yes, you have to tell Social Security you are working and report wages every month. A

MOPD Benefit Counselor can walk you through the process of reporting your wages.

8) How can MOPD Benefits Counseling program help you?

- A MOPD Benefits Counselor can work with you to answer questions regarding your benefits while working in more detail.

9) What should you have ready for an appointment with an MOPD Benefits Counselor?

- For our first meeting we will need you know which benefits you are receiving (SSI, SSDI or both benefits).

10) How long does the appointment take?

- Each appointment may vary depending on your questions, concerns and situation. It may take from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

11) What will I learn at my appointment with a MOPD Benefits Counselor?

- At your meetings you will better understand how work may affect your benefits, and gain the confidence to work towards your financial independence.

12) How do I connect with an MOPD Benefits Counselor?

- You can book an appointment by clicking: [MOPD Benefits Counseling](#)
- Emailing: MOPDBC@cityofchicago.org
- By calling an MOPD CPWIC directly at:
Jocelyn Romasanta: 312-744-5581
Erick Lopez: 312-746-5743

13) How can I learn more about the services MOPD provides?

- You can learn more about our services by:
- Visiting our website at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mopd.html>

- Calling our main numbers:
 - City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St. Room 104
 - 312-744-5070
 - Field Office- 2102 W. Ogden Ave
 - 312-746-5773