

Recent Social Security and SSI Changes

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Rule:

- \$1,180 per month, gross earnings...calendar year 2018
- \$1,170 per month, gross earnings ... calendar year 2017
- \$1,130 per month, gross earnings...calendar year 2016
- Earlier years: \$1,090 per month (2015) \$1,070 per month (2014), \$1,040 per month (2013), \$1,010 per month (2012), \$1,000 per month (2010, 2011), \$980 per month (2009).

SGA for Statutorily Blind: The 2018 SGA amount for persons who are statutorily blind is \$1,970 per month. The 2017 SGA amount was \$1,950 per month. The 2015 and 2016 SGA amount was \$1,820 per month. The 2014 SGA amount was \$1,800. Earlier years: \$1,740 per month (2013), \$1,690 per month (2012), \$1,640 per month (2009, 2010, 2011).

Trial Work Period (TWP)

Applies only to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI): first 9 months, within 60 consecutive months, that earnings are sufficient for a TWP “services month.”

- \$850 per month, gross earnings meets services month criteria in 2018
- \$840 per month, gross earnings calendar year 2017
- \$810 per month, gross earnings calendar year 2016
- Earlier years: \$780 per month (2015); \$770 per month (2014), \$750 per month (2013), \$720 per month (2010, 2011, 2012), \$700 per month (2009).

SSI’s Student Earned Income Exclusion – Students under age 22 in high school, college or vocational training.

- \$1,820 per month, up to a maximum of \$7,350 per year in 2018
- \$1,790 per month, up to a maximum of \$7,200 per year in 2017
- \$1,780 per month, up to a maximum of \$7,180 per year in 2015 and 2016
- Earlier years: \$1,750 per month, \$7,060 per year (2014); \$1,730 per month, \$6,960 per year (2013), \$1,700 per month, \$6,840 per year (2012), \$1,640 per month, \$6,600 per year (2009 – 2011).

Section 1619(b) Medicaid

- This allows automatic Medicaid to continue if person loses SSI because of wages.
- For calendar year 2017, New York’s earned income threshold was \$45,452 per year. (2018 update not available as this was prepared)
- If annual wages are below \$45,452 and the other criteria are met, Medicaid will continue.
- A higher, individualized threshold can be established if Medicaid-covered expenses and/or impairment related work expenses are high enough.

Note: This document is produced, printed, and disseminated at U.S taxpayer expense. One hundred percent of the funding for this document is through a Social Security cooperative agreement that funds our Western NY Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Project. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security communication.