

SSDI AND Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)

2014 Fact Sheet on Work Incentives

For Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Beneficiaries, a range of work incentives are available to plan for future benefit needs.

The Extended Period of Eligibility allows for continued eligibility of SSDI while you Work (after you have completed your Trial Work months.)

For more information and support on your work incentives, contact Granite State Independent Living Employment Services at:

**benefits@gsil.org
Or call
1-877-809-7028**

How It Helps You:

The Extended Period of Eligibility is an additional three years (36 months) of protection for your SSDI benefit check.

When Does It Begin?

It begins the month after your Trial Work Period ends and continues for the next 36 months, whether you are working or not working.

How It Works:

During the three years of EPE, you must carefully track your earnings and report them to the Social Security Administration (SSA). They will be evaluating whether your countable earnings are above Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). In 2014, SGA is \$1,070 per month (*and for blind individuals, the 2014 SGA amount is \$1,800 per month*). The SGA amount changes annually. The SGA limit was less in years prior to 2014.

During the EPE, the first month SSA determines you are consistently earning over SGA you will receive your SSDI benefit check for that month and two more months. These months are called the Grace Period.

During the remainder of the 36 months, you will not be entitled to your SSDI check when your countable earnings are above SGA. If your countable earnings in a month go below SGA, you will be entitled to your SSDI check. You must report any changes in your work or earnings during the EPE to your local Social Security Office so that you receive the correct benefits.

What Happens When the EPE is Over?

After your 36 month EPE is over, SSA will be evaluating your work activity, your earnings, and other work incentives that may be applicable to you. If you continue to have countable earnings above SGA, your SSDI eligibility will end.

A Claims Representative at your local Social Security office can help you understand the EPE in your specific case.