

Programs for Older Americans and Disability Benefits Through Social Security and the State of New Hampshire

How SCSEP Payments (Programs for Older Americans) Affect Title II Disability Programs (Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB) and Disabled Widow(er)s Benefits (DWB)

Federal funds have been made available to State and local agencies to provide job training and employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged, unemployed and underemployed people to prepare them to function acceptably in various kinds of competitive employment.

The Gross wages are counted in determining if a person has used any Trial Work Period (TWP) months. The Trial Work Period “service amount” is \$780.00 in 2015.

The work activity of a person in a government-sponsored job training program must be evaluated under the usual criteria for earnings and services in order to determine whether he or she is engaging in SGA (Substantial Gainful Activity – 2015 limit \$1,090 per month). A decision as to whether the work is SGA, and when such SGA may have begun, should be based on information as to the person’s “countable earnings” and performance. If a person is in a position to control when wages are paid or the amount of wages paid, additional development may be needed. Workers under any of these programs are not, therefore, treated as a group. Rather, each case is evaluated on its own merits.

The “countable earnings” of a person involved in a government-sponsored job training program are determined in the same manner as for all types of employees. Gross wages less the value of any subsidy and/or the approved Impairment Related Work Expenses determine a person’s “countable earnings”.

Under some government-sponsored programs, part of the participant’s time may be devoted to on-the-job training. Whether the person’s activity is all work or whether such training is also involved, the above limits apply.

How SCSEP Payment Affect Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits. This is true to those receiving SSI Disability benefits and those receiving SSI Aged benefits (over age 65).

A wage or salary paid under the Programs for Older Americans is earned income subject to the general SSI policies on earned income.

Anything provided under the Programs for Older Americans other than a wage or salary is excluded from income. For example, a stipend. Food & Shelter, living allowance payments, clothing allowances. (HEART Act)

How SCSEP Payment Affect State of New Hampshire benefits (Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), Old Age Assistance (OAA), Medicaid, Food Stamps)

Income from this program is excluded income and is not counted when determining eligibility or the amount of the assistance for all categories of financial and medical assistance. This income is not counted in any housing program for which Federal funds may be available.