

A Word on Social Security Work Incentives

As facilitator, it is important that you understand how difficult it can be to get accurate information about SSI Work Incentives. Even local Social Security offices and Claims Representatives are often ill-equipped to provide accurate information about the Work Incentives. Your group participants may have been given conflicting or mistaken information, and may be operating on that basis. In addition, Social Security (like any system) sometimes makes mistakes. It is extremely important that participants understand their benefits and the rules that govern them so that they can understand the notices they receive and spot any errors that Social Security might make with their benefits.

These brochures have been reviewed by the Social Security Administration for accuracy as of late 1998. In some states, Social Security will be testing some new Work Incentives policies. If this is the case in your state, you may need to find out what those new policies are. For assistance in understanding the Work Incentives, or in researching details specific to your state, feel free to call Matrix Research Institute's Work Incentives Project at (215) 569-2240.

When planning group sessions around these brochures, it can be helpful to know whether there are any recipients of Social Security benefits in your group, and which benefits they receive. It can also help to know how much information they have, and how much they need, and what they have been told by Social Security representatives.

NOTE: These brochures are full of technical details, math, and rules. These rules can be difficult to understand. Before bringing this material to a group, make sure that as a facilitator, you understand it thoroughly yourself, and are prepared to explain and teach this material.