



**From the Minnesota Work Incentives Connection:
The SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES CHANGES FOR 2019**

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Cost of Living Adjustment: People on SSDI will receive a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 2.8% for 2019

Medicare Part B Premium: 2019 Medicare Premium ranges have not been announced yet. This info sheet will be updated when further information becomes available.

Trial Work Period Months (for persons on SSDI): The Trial Work Period is nine months (not necessarily consecutive) during which SSDI beneficiaries can earn as much as they are able without affecting their SSDI checks.

- In 2019, having gross wages over \$880 in a month counts as a Trial Work Period month.
- If self-employed, net monthly earnings over \$880 or working more than 80 hours in a month will count as a Trial Work month.
- Do not assume someone has their Trial Work Period available. It may have been used in prior years.

The Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Level for People on SSDI increases to \$1,220 a month in 2019. A person's earned income should be below SGA when:

- Applying for SSI, SSDI or other disability benefits.
- Once benefits are approved but only after the Trial Work Period has been used.
- Individuals on SSDI, DWB or DAC may lose their case benefits if their earned income goes over SGA after the Trial Work Period. Call the Work Incentives Connection for further information on this rule.

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) for People who are Blind: The SGA for people who receive SSDI because they are blind, increases to \$2,040 in 2019.

SSI Federal Benefit Rate: The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) increases to \$771 for individuals and \$1,157 for a couple in 2019.

- The FBR is the maximum amount someone on SSI can receive if they have no other income.
- The FBR is also important in calculating how a person's SSI payment is affected when they work.

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) is a work incentive for students who receive SSI. SEIE enables students under age 22 to keep more SSI when working. A portion of the student's earnings is not counted in determining how much their SSI payment is reduced due to work. In 2019, up to \$1,870 per month may be excluded, with a maximum exclusion of \$7,550 per year.

**For more information, contact the Work Incentives Connection:
651-632-5113 or 1-800-976-6728 (or MN Relay-711)**