

CONTACT US

You can reach Disability Rights New Jersey at:

(800) 922-7233
(toll-free in NJ only) or
(609) 292-9742
(609) 633-7106 (TTY)

advocate@disabilityrightsnj.org

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

210 S. Broad Street,
3rd Floor,
Trenton, NJ 08608

This document provides general information only and is not intended as legal advice specific to your situation.

WHAT IS STUDENT EARNED-INCOME EXCLUSION (SEIE)?

- SEIE is a Social Security special rule, called a work incentive, to help Social Security beneficiaries work and continue to receive benefits.
- SEIE allows certain students with disabilities who receive SSI to work and earn income while attending school or a training program.

ELIGIBILITY?

- If you are under age 22 and go to school or regularly attend a training program you may be eligible for the SEIE.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- If you are eligible for the SEIE, Social Security will not count up to \$1,930 of your earnings a month in 2021 (to a maximum \$7,770 for year) when it calculates your SSI benefit, allowing you to keep more of your SSI check.
- In many cases, the SEIE allows students to work and earn income while continuing their education without experiencing any reduction to their SSI check.

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Social Security does not have a specific form to apply for SEIE but reviews student status during the annual SSI redetermination process.
- If you receive SSI and you start working, you must report your wages to Social Security straightaway!
- To ensure Social Security is aware that you are a student who wants to be considered for the SEIE work incentive, it is recommended you confirm your status as a student in writing when you report your wages.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Social Security work incentives rules can be confusing, but there is a free service available to help you understand your eligibility for the SEIE and other Social Security work incentive programs.

New Jersey Work Incentives Network Support (NJWINS) assists SSI and SSDI beneficiaries who need information about Social Security work incentives, and more generally about how work may affect SSI and SSDI disability cash benefits and medical insurance. More information about this free service is available at <https://njwins.org/about>

For more information about the SEIE you may also refer to Social Security's program operating manual (POMS SI00820.510) available at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/lx/0500820510>

This document provides general information only and is not intended as legal advice specific to your situation.

ABOUT DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW JERSEY

Disability Rights New Jersey answers the calls of those in need, advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities in our statewide community. As New Jersey's designated Protection and Advocacy agency, it is their mission to preserve the human, civil and legal rights of persons with disabilities, empowering equality through persistence, awareness and expertise.