

## 6 & 7

### EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

#### **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROJECT**

The National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Project Personnel (NAVUBPP) is the professional association for Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) staff personnel. Veterans Upward Bound projects, supported by NAVUBPP, are dedicated to fully developing the personal potential of all U.S. military veterans, just as NAVUBPP is dedicated to fully developing professional staff members who work with VUB's veterans. VUB staff and instructors assist veterans by developing, improving, and extending educational access and opportunities to eligible veterans through academic needs assessment, instruction, enrichment, and other academic support activities. Veterans Upward Bound projects are funded by the U. S. Department of Education and serve eligible veterans across the nation.

Communication and cooperative effort with schools, communities, agencies and other organizations at the local, state, regional, and national level are among the other primary functions of NAVUBPP, which also seeks to improve services and educational opportunities for veterans by serving as a forum for exchange of knowledge and ideas. NAVUBPP provides for continuing professional development of VUB staff members, and serves as a network of communication for information related to quality delivery of veterans' services. NAVUBPP also encourages professional research and publication, as well as cooperative effort with other organizations committed to serving veterans and addressing veterans' issues.

Forty-seven Veterans Upward Bound projects are currently funded across the U.S., including Puerto Rico. An annual conference with emphasis on professional development of individual members and VUB project staff is the Association's highlight activity each year.

#### **Program Information**

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a free U.S. Department of Education TRIO program designed to help eligible U.S. military veterans enter and succeed in the postsecondary school of their choosing. Currently, there are 47 VUB programs nationwide, including Puerto Rico, ready to assist veterans. The services provided by VUB projects include:

##### **Academic Preparation**

- Assessment of academic skills
- Academic Refresher Courses
  - Math
  - Laboratory Science
  - Composition
  - Reading
  - Literature
  - Foreign Language
  - Computer Skills

##### **Other services may include**

- Assistance completing college admission forms
- Personal academic advising and career counseling
- Help with GI Bill applications
- Assistance completing financial aid applications and finding scholarships
- Career guidance and planning

## EDUCATION

- Cultural field trips and campus visits
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Referrals to other community agencies serving veterans

### **Basic eligibility criteria for all VUB projects nationwide:**

(1) U.S. military veteran with more than 180 days and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable;

(2) Served on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and was discharged or released because of a service connected disability;

(3) Was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States and was called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days; or

(4) Was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation (as that term is defined in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code) on or after September 11, 2001.

and

(4) Low-income according to guidelines published annual by the U.S. Department of Education, AND/OR a first-generation college graduate; and

(5) The veteran student demonstrates academic need;

(6) Has been out of high school or dropped out of a program of postsecondary education for five or more years;

(7) Has scored on standardized tests below the level that demonstrates a likelihood of success in a program of postsecondary education; or

(8) Meets the definition of an individual with a disability as defined in §645.6(b).

If you want to go back to school, but it's been a few years since you've been in a classroom setting, or if you could use a free refresher program, contact a VUB program near you @ <http://www.navub.org/About-Our-Program.html>

\*Above source directly from: <http://www.navub.org/>; 10/2012

## EMPLOYMENT

### **CVAMC: WORK RESTORATION /COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY (CWT)**

#### **Services available in Work Restoration**

Work restoration offers an umbrella of services that are designed to assist the Veteran in returning to gainful employment. Each service offers Veterans an opportunity to determine and pursue their individual vocational goals.

#### **Vocational Education Center**

Computer lab, fax machine, and phone message center for job search activities are provided.

#### **Employment Development Services (CWT/TWE)**

Work hardening experiences are available either in the medical center or on off-station contracts. These therapeutic work assignments (TWE) are designed to assist Veterans to re-enter the workforce by developing and maintaining positive work habits prior to going into job search.

#### **Job Search Assistance**

Assistance with locating potential employers and transportation to interviews for Veterans who are ready to pursue employment in the community are provided.

#### **Incentive Therapy (IT)**

Daily structure/activity and a sense of belonging for Veterans who benefit from low stress, light duty work activity is provided with assignments in the medical center. Assignments such as laundry helper, mail runner, and recreation helper are examples of positions for this program.

#### **Supported Employment (SE) and Homeless Veterans Supported Employment (HVSE)**

Provides pre-placement counseling, job placement services, and post job placement assistance for those Veterans who need additional supports with community employment and meet specific criteria. SE falls under CWT guidelines.

**Employment Development Services CWT, Job Search Assistance, Incentive Therapy (IT):** Eligibility criteria have been simplified to ensure a no exclusion philosophy for any Veteran seeking assistance with employment before, during, and after job placement.

**For more information,** Contact Sue Wieser, Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation Services @ (610) 384-7711 x 5287.

\*Source: Work Restoration Work Restoration/Compensated Work Therapy information verified via Supervisor, S. Wieser;12/2012

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **CVAMC: SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT**

#### **What is Supported employment (SE)?**

- The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded its Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) program to assist Veterans with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) find competitive employment in the community.
- Veterans who show interest in working but have a history of severe mental health problems, which have impeded employment opportunities, are the target population of this supported employment initiative.
- Currently, only 15% of Veterans with severe mental illness are employed in competitive employment.
- Research has shown that the process of assisting and finding competitive employment, even if it is only a few hours a day, can improve self-image and life style. 70% of Veterans with severe mental illness want to work.

#### **Why is supported employment helpful?**

- Supported employment is a relatively new program designed to help disabled Veterans find and maintain competitive employment.
- Veterans in this program are assigned to a vocational rehabilitation specialist who can dedicate a significant amount of one-on-one time in the pursuit of employment and in supporting the Veteran after they're hired.
- Support to the Veteran would include vocational counseling services, liaison with employers, problem-solving assistance, and general assistance.

#### **Program Design**

- The program is designed to focus on the Veteran's choices; seeking employment directly without pre-employment training. It conforms to the principles developed through evidence-based practice research.
- It stresses continuous assessment based on work experience rather than in artificial or sheltered settings.
- There is no time limitation. Enrolled Veterans will receive continuous support as they adjust to the world of competitive employment.
- Rehabilitation is considered an integral component of mental health treatment. This initiative will require that the supported employment staff work very closely with the treatment team. Supported employment staff will coordinate with teams and document their interactions with clients through CPRS medical records system, the Veteran's struggles and successes will become one aspect of the mental health treatment.
- The supported employment staff also will work in conjunction with family, friends or any support system identified by the Veteran. Release of information forms will be obtained so that there can be communication between VA staff and the employer regarding the Veteran's employment.

#### **Who is eligible?**

- Eligibility criteria have been simplified to ensure a no exclusion philosophy.
- Any Veteran, who has an interest in working and has a primary diagnosis of severe mental illness, including affective psychoses, schizophrenic disorder or other diagnoses of psychosis, can be referred.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **How can I be referred?**

- Primary therapists are asked to raise the subject of employment with the Veterans they serve.
- If a Veteran expresses an interest in finding competitive employment and has a diagnosis of SMI, a referral can be made.
- Motivation for competitive employment takes precedence over the Veteran's current or past adjustment or emotional problems.
- The Veteran will require medical clearance.

### **Outcomes of the Program**

- The program will be monitored through the Department of Veterans Affairs, with ongoing and annual statistics.
- We will be working to ensure our Veterans receive the opportunity to work in an integrated work setting receiving competitive wages.

### **Where are the services?**

Supported employment is located in Building #58 Room 04B. Contact supported employment specialist, Thomas Dimeo (610) 384-7711 x 5224.

### **When are the services?**

There is no time limitation. Enrolled Veterans will receive continuous support as they adjust to the world of competitive employment.

\*Source: Work Restoration Work Restoration/Compensated Work Therapy information verified via Supervisor, S. Wieser; 12/2012

## EMPLOYMENT

### **CVAMC: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM SERVICES**

#### **What is the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program?**

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRandE) Program is authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, *Chapter 31*. It is sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. The mission of VRandE is to help Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VRandE offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

#### **Services that may be provided by VRandE include:**

- Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, interests, and needs
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning
- Employment services such as job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance
- Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives
- If needed, training such as On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences
- If needed, post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and referral
- Independent living services

#### **Who is Eligible for VRandE Services?**

To receive an evaluation for VRandE services, a Veteran must:

- Have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable
- Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%
- Submit a completed application for VRandE services

The basic period of eligibility in which VRandE services may be used is 12 years from the latter of the following:

- Date of separation from active military service, or
- Date the Veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating.

\*\*The basic period of eligibility may be extended if a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) determines that a Veteran has a Serious Employment Handicap

#### **What Happens after Eligibility is established?**

The Veteran is scheduled to meet with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) for a comprehensive evaluation to determine whether the Veteran is entitled to services. The comprehensive evaluation includes:

- An assessment of the Veteran's interests, aptitudes, and abilities
- An assessment of whether service connected disabilities impair the Veteran's ability to find and/or hold a job using the occupational skills he or she has already developed
- Vocational exploration and goal development

## EMPLOYMENT

### **What is Entitlement Determination?**

A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) determines whether a Veteran has an employment handicap based on the results of the comprehensive evaluation. Entitlement to services is established if the Veteran is within his or her 12 year basic period of eligibility and has a 20 % or greater service-connected disability rating and an employment handicap.

If the service-connected disability rating is less than 20% or if the Veteran is beyond the 12 year basic period of eligibility, then a serious employment handicap must be found to establish entitlement to VRandE services.

### **What Happens after the Entitlement Determination is made?**

The Veteran and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRandE) work together to:

- Select a VRandE program track leading to an employment or independent living goal
- Identify viable employment or independent living services options
- Determine transferable skills
- Explore labor market and wage information
- Identify physical demands and other job characteristics
- Narrow vocational options to identify a suitable employment goal
- Investigate training requirements
- Identify resources needed to achieve rehabilitation
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan to achieve the identified employment or independent living goal

### **What is a Rehabilitation Plan?**

A rehabilitation plan is an individualized, written outline of the services, resources and criteria that will be used to achieve successful rehabilitation. It is an agreement that is signed by the Veteran and the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) and is reviewed annually to determine whether any changes may be needed.

Depending on their circumstances, Veterans will work with their VRC to select one of the following Five Tracks of services (see definitions for more detail on website):

- Reemployment (with a former employer )
- Rapid employment services for new employment
- Self-employment
- Employment through long term services
- Independent living services

### **What Happens after the Rehabilitation Plan is developed?**

After a plan is developed and signed, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) or case manager will continue to work with the Veteran to implement the plan to achieve suitable employment or independent living. The VRC or case manager may coordinate services such as tutorial assistance, training in job-seeking skills, medical and dental referrals, adjustment counseling, payment of training allowance, if applicable, and other services as required to achieve rehabilitation.

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Summary of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (Chapter 31) Process**

A Veteran who is eligible for an evaluation under Chapter 31 must complete an application and meet with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC). If the VRC determines that an employment handicap exists as a result of a service-connected disability, the Veteran is found entitled to services. The VRC and the Veteran will then continue counseling to select a track of services and jointly develop a plan to address the rehabilitation and employment needs of the Veteran.

The rehabilitation plan will specify an employment or independent living goal, identify intermediate goals, and outline services and resources needed to achieve these goals. The VRC and the Veteran will work together to implement the plan and achieve successful rehabilitation.

If a Veteran is found not to be entitled to services, the VRC will help the Veteran locate other resources to address any rehabilitation and employment needs identified during the evaluation. Referral to other resources may include state vocational rehabilitation programs, Department of Labor employment programs for disabled Veterans, and state, federal or local agencies providing services for employment or small business development, internet-based resources for rehabilitation and employment, and information about applying for financial aid.

\*Above SOURCE: Directly from <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/vrs.htm>

**Program Information on  
Vocational Education at Coatesville VAMC, please call Vocational Rehabilitation  
Specialist, Jeff Drexel at (610) 384-7711 ext 5288  
VR and E Services are administered at the Philadelphia VAMC**

\*Source: Work Restoration Work Restoration/Compensated Work Therapy information verified via Supervisor, S. Wieser; 12/2012

## EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES - CHESTER COUNTY AREA

<b><u>Adecco</u></b>	740 Springdale Drive Suite #157 Exton, PA 19341 (Whiteland Corporate Center) 610-524-7990
<b><u>Aerotek</u></b>	1325 Morris Drive, Suite #210 Wayne, PA 19087 610-232-5800 800-964-1586 Fax: 610-232-5890
<b><u>Bernard's Staffing</u></b>	415 Eagleview Blvd. Eagleview Corporate Center Eagle, PA 19341 (610)458-9180
<b><u>Bettinger</u></b>	403N.Lincoln Highway Exton, PA 19341 610-594-6667 Fax: 610-594-6768
<b><u>Careers USA</u></b>	301 E. Lincoln Hwy. Exton, PA 19341 610-594-7700 Fax: 610-594-7765
<b><u>Hobart West</u></b>	736 Springdale Drive Exton, PA 19341 610-524-9997 Fax: 610-524-0313
<b><u>Manpower</u></b>	478 Thomas Jones Way Exton, PA 19341 610-594-7717
<b><u>Randstad</u></b>	1265 Drummers Drive, Suite #110 Chadds Ford, PA 19083 610-775-9240/877-601-7453

\*Source: Employment information verified via Supervisor, S. Wieser; 12/2012

## **EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION RESOURCE LIST**

### **CareerLink-Chester County PA – Coatesville**

250 East Harmony Street  
Coatesville, PA 19320-5409  
Phone: 610-384-9393  
Email: [dschmidt@state.pa.us](mailto:dschmidt@state.pa.us)

### **CareerLink – Chester County PA – Exton**

737 Constitution Drive  
Exton, PA 19341  
Phone: 610-458-5700  
Fax: 610-458-7770  
Email: [dschmidt@state.pa.us](mailto:dschmidt@state.pa.us)

### **CareLink Career Services Program**

529 East Gay Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
Phone: 610-429-1702  
610-429-1703

### **Chester County Night School Office**

Washington Square Building  
21 West Washington Street, Suite B  
West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: 610-692-1964  
Email: [www.chestercountynightschool.org](http://www.chestercountynightschool.org)

### **Chester County OIC**

790 East Market Street, Suite 100  
West Chester, PA 19380  
Phone: 610-692-2344  
Fax: 610-918-2690

### **Community Crossroads Peer Support Center**

529 East Gay Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
Phone: 610-429-1702  
610-429-1703

### **Cornerstone Clubhouse Transitional Employment Services**

224 Hall Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
Phone: 610-935-2290

\*Source: Employment & Education information verified via Supervisor, S. Wieser; 12/2012

## EMPLOYMENT

### OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

The **Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR**, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors.

In order to be eligible individuals must have a disability that causes substantial impediments to employment and also have the ability to benefit from OVR's supports in terms of competitive employment.

Services are provided on an individualized basis. The OVR counselor, during face-to-face interviews, assists customers in selecting their choice of vocational goals, services and service providers. An Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) is developed, outlining an agreed upon vocational objective, services, providers and responsibilities. Certain services are subject to a Financial Needs Test (FNT) and may require financial participation by the customer. OVR always looks to comparable benefits, such as insurance, prior to providing cost services. Counseling and guidance, diagnostic services, assessments, information and referral, job development and placement, and personal services such as readers or sign language interpreters are provided at no cost to the individual. Also, by law OVR customers receiving Social Security benefits for their disability (SSI, SSDI) are exempt from OVR's Financial Needs Test.

Statewide there are 21 district offices staffed with trained, professional vocational rehabilitation counselors which serve Pennsylvania in all 67 counties. The Hiram G. Andrews Center in Johnstown provides vocational training and comprehensive rehabilitation services to people from across the state. OVR's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services also provides specialized services to blind and visually impaired individuals. These services are designed to increase an individual's independence and employability. OVR's central administrative offices in Harrisburg provide technical assistance to local district offices in order to improve service delivery.

**Types of Vocational Rehabilitation Services OVR provides:** A wide range of services to eligible applicants. The services you receive will be arranged to meet your individual needs and agreed upon job goal. Not everyone will need every service. OVR services include:

- **Diagnostic Services:** Medical, psychological, and audiological examinations and tests used to determine your eligibility and/or better understand your disability and your needs for specific types of services.
- **Vocational Evaluation:** Aptitude, interest, general ability, academic exams, work tolerance, and "hands-on" job experience used to understand your vocational potential.
- **Counseling:** Vocational counseling will help you to better understand your potential, to rely on your abilities, to set realistic vocational goals, to change them when necessary, to develop successful work habits, and to begin a satisfying career. Counseling is available throughout your rehabilitation program.
- **Training:** Education to prepare you for a job including, but not limited to, basic academic, vocational/technical, college, on-the-job training, and personal and work adjustment training.
- **Restoration Services:** Medical services and equipment such as physical and occupational therapy, wheelchairs, and automobile hand controls can be provided to enable you to pursue and achieve employment.
- **Placement Assistance:** Vocational counseling, job-seeking programs, job clubs, and job development used to increase your ability to get a job. You will receive ideas, practice, and advice on finding job leads, filling out applications, getting interviews for a job, and on how to interview. Your counselor may also give you job

## EMPLOYMENT

leads or contact employers about available tax credits and hiring incentives. The more contacts with employers you make, the better your chances are of finding a job. For more details, go to our Services for Job Seekers page.

**Assistive Technology:** Assistive technology includes a wide range of devices and services that can empower persons with disabilities to maximize employment, independence, and integration into society. OVR can assist an individual with a disability in effectively selecting and acquiring appropriate assistive technology. OVR can arrange for a consultant to evaluate your situation and to make appropriate recommendations. OVR also operates and maintains our own Center for Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology (CART) at the Hiram G. Andrews Center. For more details, visit our Assistive Technology page.

**Support Services:** Other services are provided for eligible persons if they are necessary for you to start and maintain employment. Such services may include:

- Room, board, and transportation costs during an evaluation or while completing a rehabilitation program.
- Occupational tools, licenses, or equipment.
- Home modifications, adaptive or special household equipment in order to help you get ready to go to and be on time for your job. Van or car modifications, including special driving devices or lifting devices to enable you to travel to your job.
- Personal care assistance provided to help you with your daily needs in order to enable you to participate in a vocational rehabilitation program.
- Job site modifications that will enable you to get and keep a job. Independent living training to provide the means for you to become more self-sufficient and thereby make it possible for you to participate in employment.
- Text Telephone (TT), signaling devices, hearing aids, and interpreters services may be provided to help you communicate.
- Specialized services such as Rehabilitation Teaching, and Orientation and Mobility Training for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The Norristown District Office of Vocational Rehabilitation serves residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties. Chester County Residents who are interested in receiving services can contact Chester County VR Supervisor Jon Gaddis at 1-800-221-1042 X 142. Residents of Montgomery, Bucks and Delaware County should call 1-800-221-1042 and ask for an intake counselor. Residents outside of the 4 county area our office serves can use our office directory located on our website <http://www.dli.state.pa.us/landi/cwp/view.asp?A=128andQ=61197> to refer themselves for services.

Tara M. Okon  
Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
1875 New Hope Street  
Norristown, PA 19401  
[tokon@pa.gov](mailto:tokon@pa.gov); O: 484.250.4340, ext. 142 / F: 484.250.4356  
[www.dli.state.pa.us](http://www.dli.state.pa.us) ;<http://www.dli.state.pa.us>

Auxiliary aids and services are available on request to individuals with disabilities. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

\*Source: Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation program information verified via supervisor, T. Okon; 11/2012

## EMPLOYMENT

### **PENNSYLVANIA WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING and ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (WIPA) Social Security's "Ticket to Work" and other work incentives can help you return to work and stay employed.**

#### **Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choosing to Work**

**Are you a Social Security beneficiary with a disability who received a Ticket to Work, or who is interested in returning to work?**

The Ticket to Work Incentives Improvement Act increases your choice in employment services and provides help for you to navigate work rules and regulations. All of these initiatives are designed to help you participate in the workforce and increase your financial self-sufficiency.

The Social Security Affairs (SSA) offers numerous work incentives that can help you transition into employment, including statewide services that can help you identify and use these work incentives.

In addition, Pennsylvania offers health insurance for workers with disabilities that's affordable and allows you to earn more money and keep medical coverage.

**Contact Information:** Social Security Affairs: 1-800-772-1213, or visit the website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and select "Ticket to Work".

#### **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)**

The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program is a statewide service designed to help you to understand work rules and regulations and to access work incentives available under the SSI and SSDI programs. A WIPA coordinator can meet with you individually to discuss how returning to work will impact your benefits as well as recommend work incentives that can maximize your income and healthcare options as you return to work and achieve greater financial self-sufficiency. The staff can also help you identify and access appropriate employment networks and other employment support services that can help you return to work.

#### **Ticket to Work**

The WIPA Program is designed to complement a beneficiary's efforts that are participating in the Ticket to Work, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or other employment strategy.

SSA's Ticket to Work Program allows you to choose from a list of providers (called Employment Networks) to help you prepare for and obtain a job. Employment network services might include job training and education, assistance to identify and obtain assistive technology, and helping you to identify and secure a job. Employment networks could include community-based organizations, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and your local career link. The ticket program is completely voluntary and at no cost to you. MAXIMUS Inc. is a company hired to manage the Ticket to Work program. MAXIMUS, Inc. can be reached at their toll free numbers:

**1-866-968-7842  
(1-866-YOURTICKET)  
Or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)  
(1-866-TDD 2 WORK)**

Visit their website for additional information at: [www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com)

## EMPLOYMENT

### **PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY (PABSS), A PROJECT OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Program assists SSA beneficiaries to overcome discrimination and barriers to obtaining work, returning to work, and/or maintaining work. This includes barriers that impede access to vocational and rehabilitation services, barriers to employment and support services (including transportation) necessary to enter the workplace, and reasonable accommodation for your disability at your place of employment.

For further information, contact PABSS:

- Voice (717) 236-8110 or (800) 692-7443 ext 400
- TTY (717) 346-0293 or (877) 375-7139
- <http://drnpa.org/>

#### **Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities**

Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) is offered through the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. MAWD lets Pennsylvanians with disabilities take a fulfilling job, earn more money and still keep their full medical coverage. With MAWD you can keep Medicaid while you work, even if your earnings increase above the limits for other Medicaid programs. Now you don't have to choose between a job and your health.

You do not need to be receiving SSA benefits to be eligible for MAWD. You need to have a qualifying impairment, be working or self-employed, and meet the income and asset requirements.

To find out more about MAWD or apply: contact your local County Assistance Office, or call the PA Department of Public Welfare help line at (800) 692-7462 for more information. TTY/TTD users can call (800) 451-5886. Individuals can also apply online through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) at: [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)

\*Source: <http://drnpa.org/File/wipabro09.pdf> ; 10/2012