

Trial Work Period (TWP)

2026 Fact Sheet on Title II Work Incentives

What is the Trial Work Period (TWP)?

The Trial Work Period (TWP) lets you test your ability to work to your fullest potential. The TWP lets you work with no limit on how much you earn for **9 months**; you can earn as much as you can and still receive your full Title II cash benefit.

Trial Work Period (9 months)

Receive full cash benefit while working

How does the TWP work?

The 9 TWP months don't have to be used a row. In fact, you can use them over a 5-year rolling period. In 2026, a TWP month happens when your monthly job income is **\$1,210 or more before taxes**. The earnings amount for the TWP changes each year.

How does Social Security (SSA) count job income?

Job income counts in the month it was earned unless Social Security cannot verify when earned. Then, it counts in the month it was paid. If there is a month you earn close to the TWP amount, give Social Security proof of when your income was earned along with your paystubs.

Do I need to tell SSA that I am working?

Yes. You must let Social Security know when you start or stop working. We also recommend reporting your job earnings to Social Security every month so they can keep track of how many TWP months you've used.

What happens after the TWP ends?

Social Security should review your work activity and send something in writing that says your Trial Work Period is over. This is called a Continuing Disability Review or a "Work Activity Report". When your TWP is over, you will enter a 3-year Extended Period of Eligibility (for details see the fact sheet about this work incentive). You will need to continue to track your earnings and report these to Social Security.

Can someone help me with this?

Yes! A Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) from MaineHealth Vocational Services can help you understand the Trial Work Period, show you how to track your 9 TWP months, and explain other work incentives that may apply to you. You can also contact your local Social Security office for assistance.



Vocational Services

Benefits Counseling Services • 1-888-208-8700 • benefitsandworkinme.org