

# Returning to Work: Trial Work Period (TWP)

## 2021 Tip Sheet

**If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits; you should learn about your Trial Work Period**

### What It Means to You:

During the Trial Work Period (TWP) you have 9 months where you can earn as much money as you can and it will have **NO** impact on your **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** benefits. During your Trial Work Period (TWP); you can explore employment without worrying about the loss of your cash benefits or Medicare. You could also receive additional medical insurance through a program called Medicaid for Employed Persons with a Disability or **MEPD**.

### How It Works:

The Trial Work Period is made up of Service Months. These are 9 months (not necessarily in a row) where there is **NO LIMIT** on the amount of money you can earn. In 2021; you only use a Service Month when you earn at least **\$940** gross (before taxes). You still will need to report your wages to the Social Security Administration to make sure that your Trial Work Period (TWP) is accurately recorded.

Once you have used your Trial Work Period (TWP); you have additional work incentives such as the Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE).

If you have questions about if you have used your TWP, how many months you have remaining or any other questions regarding how work impacts your SSDI benefits or the Ticket to Work program; **contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or Brian Dennis at 515-725-3666 or via email [Brian.Dennis@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:Brian.Dennis@iwd.iowa.gov).**