

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 14.240

☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Board Chairs
Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: August 14, 2018

Subject: **Benefits Counseling Training Opportunity Through Work Without Limits**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of a Benefits Counseling training opportunity offered through our partners at the University of Massachusetts Medical School/Work Without Limits. The two-day training on “*The Nuts & Bolts of SSI & SSDI, Public Health Insurance and Other Public Benefits*” is offered at various dates and locations between September and November 2018.

Background: This training focuses on how earnings from work affects SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare and other public benefits such as subsidized housing and food stamps. This training also includes an extensive review of the work incentives associated with each benefit and how they can be leveraged to assist individuals with disabilities to transition into employment or increase earnings without jeopardizing benefits.

Participants should attend both days to gain a firm understanding. This training has been approved for 10.5 Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) CE hours. Employment professionals, case managers, peer specialists and rehabilitation counselors are encouraged to attend. Class size is limited and the cost is \$250 per person. Hours for all trainings are Day 1: 8:30am to 4:00pm and Day 2: 8:30am to 12:30pm.

As a result of this training, participants will be able to:

- Verify and differentiate the various disability benefits
- Inform clients of the rules to report work income
- Explain how work earnings will impact cash, healthcare and other public benefits
- Describe how Social Security work incentives can help working beneficiaries
- Direct clients to resources to address employment and benefit needs

September 26 - 27	October 17 - 18
UMass Medical School 333 South Street Shrewsbury, MA 01545	Career Center of Lowell 107 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852
November 7 - 8	November 13 - 14
FutureWorks Career Ctr. 1 Federal St, Bldg 103-3 Springfield, MA 01105	UMass Medical School 333 South Street Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Breakfast will be provided; lunch is on your own. [Registration](#) is available online. Questions regarding the training may be directed to Brian Forsythe at (508) 856-2513 or Brian.Forsythe@umassmed.edu.

Action

Requested: Please share this information with staff and partners as appropriate.