Commonwealth Medicine

UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL

WorkWithoutLimits
— PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK —

OneCare
Implementation Council

One Care
MassHealth+Medicare
Bringing your care together

February 11, 2020

Nearly 13%
of people in the U.S. **have a disability –** that's roughly **1:8**

20.7% of people **with disabilities participate in the labor market** compared to **68.9%** of Americans without a disability

Unemployment rate for Americans with a disability is 6.9% compared to **3.2%** for Americans without disability

72% of people with disabilities who are unemployed would **prefer to be working**

Nearly 30% of American families have **at least one family member with a disability**

1 out of 59 children in the U.S. are diagnosed on the **autism spectrum**

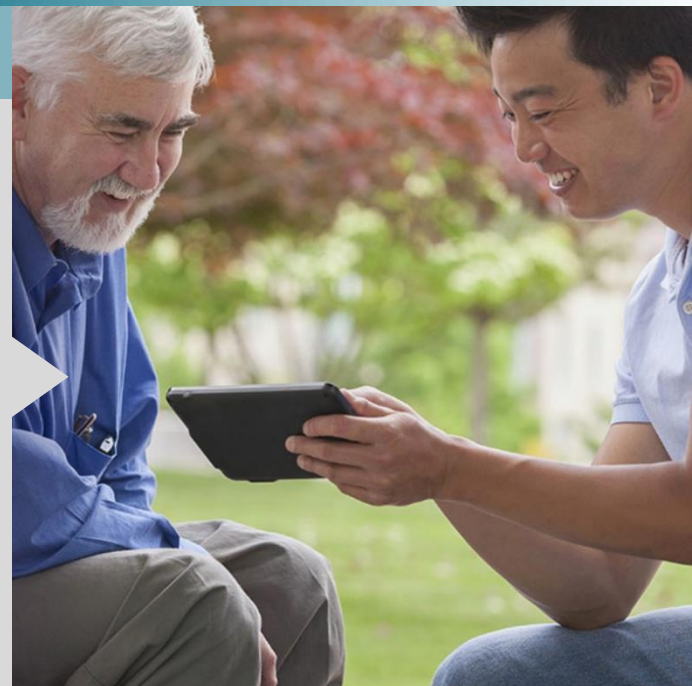**Commonwealth Medicine**
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Our Services

Work Without Limits

Benefits Counseling

- Serves individuals with disabilities, family members, and employment service providers

- How work earnings affect eligibility for public benefits such as SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, subsidized housing, and others

Outcomes Snapshot
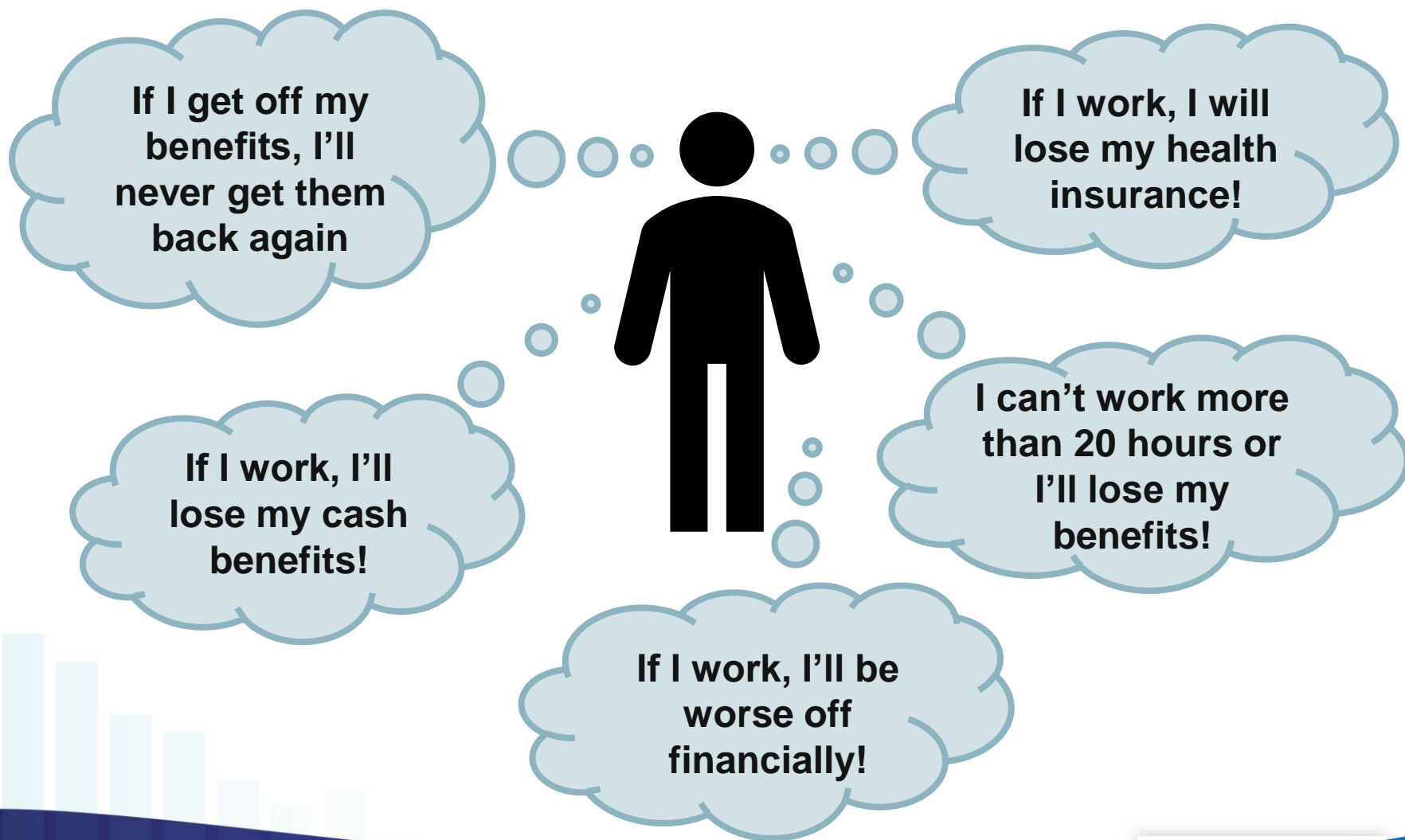
1,100+ referrals
and
800+ served
per year

"I am more confident returning to work, maintaining my employment, increasing my hours."
- Benefits Counseling Client

Benefits Counseling services **increase working hours** by **31%** and **increase weekly earnings** of SSI/SSDI beneficiaries by **40%**

Don't Believe Myths!

If I get off my benefits, I'll never get them back again

If I work, I will lose my health insurance!

If I work, I'll lose my cash benefits!

I can't work more than 20 hours or I'll lose my benefits!

If I work, I'll be worse off financially!

Here are the Facts

FACT   There are ways to maintain SSI & SSDI benefits using work incentives that are built into the benefit programs

FACT   Individuals can keep their MassHealth and Medicare while working

FACT   Both Social Security programs provide ways to get the cash payment back again if it is stopped due to earnings

FACT   Benefits counseling can help individuals achieve self-sufficiency with minimal risk

FACT   Individuals can achieve success by volunteering and through part-time or full-time employment

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Success story

Sarah's Story

Sarah wanted to work with animals but needed support

- Worked with MRC for assistance with a certificate program to work with animals & job placement

- Met with a Benefits Counselor to understand how work impacts SSI benefits & health insurance

- Received additional supports through the local independent living center as she returned to work

Sarah works part-time at a doggie daycare and loves her job!
She has maintained part of her SSI benefits for now.

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Our Services

Work Without Limits

Administrative Employment Network (AEN)

- AEN partners with community agencies to maximize revenue through SSA's Ticket to Work program.

- SSA provides payments to the AEN which are then shared with partnering organizations.

- The AEN provides enhanced benefits counseling to support individual work goals.

There are no geographic limitations. The AEN can accept referrals from anywhere in the US.

Outcomes Snapshot

$704,762 Revenue
generated since 2015

200 Tickets Assigned
since 2015

14 AEN Partners

"The work incentive & benefits counseling provided has been a powerful, and empowering tool for people's financial and mental health."

- AEN Partner

Success story

Laurie's Story

Laurie works part-time as a Receptionist and unexpectedly her SSDI benefits stopped

- Met with a Benefits Counselor to resolve issues and implement Work Incentives to maintain SSDI

- Received additional supports through Peer Support at a local Clubhouse & Therapy

Laurie continues to work part-time and receive her SSDI with community supports.

Our Services

Work Without Limits

Training & Consulting

- **For employers –** disability sensitivity, awareness & etiquette, and interviewing, managing & accommodating employees with disabilities

- **For employment service providers –** the impact of work and earnings on public benefits

Outcomes Snapshot

7 years & 200+ Trainings

delivered to employers and employment service providers

"So grateful my company is doing this inclusive series. EVERYONE should come. This makes me proud to work here."
– *Employer Training Attendee*

"The benefits training made me confident to advise clients and/or refer them to Work Without Limits."
– *Provider Training Attendee*

6,177 Individuals trained

Trainings Offered

Public Benefits and Employment:

- Overview of Social Security Work Incentives for Families and Persons Served
- The Basics of Social Security Work Incentives for Providers
- Disability Benefits and Transition Age Youth
- The Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) Intensive
- The Nuts and Bolts of SSI and SSDI, Public Health Insurance and Other Public Benefits
- *Customized trainings offered to meet each organization's needs*
  - *Example: How to Talk About Work for Care Coordinators*

Disability Inclusion:

- Supporting the Career Development of College Students with Mental Health Conditions
- Understanding Corporate Disability Inclusion Practices

 …and more!

Visit **www.WorkWithoutLimits.org/contact** to get more information.

Success story

John's Story

John is an Registered Nurse and has been out of work

- Worked with MassHire for assistance with resume update and online applications

- Met with a Benefits Counselor to understand how work impacts SSDI benefits & health insurance

- Received additional supports through his network of friends and family

John works full-time with some accommodations and has transitioned off of SSDI benefits with benefits supports

Work Without Limits Experience

Partnering with:

- Rehabilitation centers, health plans, and more, facilitating outreach to people about potential employment pathways

- Health plans to integrate persons with disabilities in their workforce through customized trainings

- Organizations to build relationships with MRC and other employment services

- Individuals achieving small incremental successes over time

Questions & Discussion

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For more information, visit:
www.workwithoutlimits.org

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