

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 14.188

☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development 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: April 26, 2017

Subject: **Work Without Limits Work & Social Security Benefits E-Module Released**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners that Work Without Limits (WWL) has released an online training – *Work & Social Security Benefits: You Can Make it Work!* designed for customers with disabilities. The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration is a partial funder of this program along with the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Background: [Work Without Limits](#), a program of The University of Massachusetts Medical School, is a statewide network of engaged employers and innovative, collaborative partners that aims to increase employment among individuals with disabilities. Their goal is to position Massachusetts as the first state in the nation where the employment rate of people with disabilities is equal to that of people without disabilities.

A significant concern among disabled individuals is how employment will affect their benefits including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). The module contains valuable information including Benefits of Working; Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); Resources; and Success Stories. The training is accessible at:

https://onlinetraining.umassmed.edu/you_can_make_it_work/

It is highly recommended that One-Stop Career Centers upload the above link to their respective websites under sections such as ‘Community Resources’,

‘Disability Services’, ‘Support Services’, or the like. The link should also be accompanied by the following description: “This module contains important information about disability-related public benefits in order to help guide One-Stop Career Center customers to make informed decisions about employment and training. Topics include, but are not limited to the following: benefits of working, impact of work earnings on cash and health care benefits, reporting requirements, and community resources.”

In addition, creating a shortcut to the link on the desktops of computers in each One-Stop Career Center’s computer lab should also increase access and visibility of this module. The shortcut should be named *Work & Social Security Benefits - You Can Make it Work!*

Action

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