

Transcript: Disability Benefit Specialist Program Information

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Recorded: July 27, 2011

Hello. My name is Jennifer Koehn. I am a disability benefit specialist.

Whether you are filling out forms for Medicaid, trying to understand a notice about your Social Security benefits, or choosing a Medicare Part D plan... benefit programs can be complex and confusing. In Wisconsin, disability benefit specialists (called “DBS” for short) are here to help answer your questions and solve your problems related to public and private benefits.

Some of the programs that a Disability Benefit Specialist can help you with are Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security Disability Insurance (or “SSDI”), Supplemental Security Income (or “SSI”), private health insurance and FoodShare. A Disability Benefit Specialist can help you to understand, apply for, and appeal decisions about these and other programs. These services are free of charge and confidential.

DBSs serve people ages 18-59 with a physical or a developmental disability, a mental illness or a substance abuse disorder. Similar services are available to people age 60 or older through the [Elderly Benefit Specialist program](#).

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and use American Sign Language, you can request DBS services from me through the **Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. I can be reached by videophone at **866-948-9841** or by email at jenniferm.koehn@wisconsin.gov.

You may also request DBS services from your local [Aging and Disability Resource Center](#). Aging and Disability Resource Centers (or “ADRCs”) are currently available in most but not all of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. The ADRC will provide a sign language interpreter or any other accommodation you need in order to talk to a DBS.

Tribal members who live on or near a reservation in Wisconsin may choose to work with a [tribal benefit specialist](#). To reach a tribal benefit specialist, call the **Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council** at **800-472-7207**.

If you receive disability benefits such as SSI or SSDI and you want to know how working might affect your benefits, you should contact a [work incentives benefit specialist](#). Work incentives benefit specialists can help you to develop a plan for returning to work. For help finding a work incentives benefit specialist near you, contact **ERI** at **855-401-8549**.