

## The **Disability Benefit Specialist** (DBS) program is a service of Wisconsin's **Aging and Disability Resource Centers**.

Disability benefit specialists provide services to people ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders.

Disability benefit specialists provide information and assistance with public and private benefit programs including application and appeal procedures.

There is no charge for disability benefit specialist services.

How to Reach your Local Disability Benefit Specialist

Disability benefit specialist services are available in every county served by an Aging and Disability Resource Center.

## **Local Contact Information:**

Disability Benefit Specialist Program

Benefits counseling for adults ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

A service of Wisconsin's Aging and Disability Resource Centers



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Long Term Care Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources Office for Resource Center Development P-23168 Revised November 2009

## How Can a Disability Benefit Specialist Help You?

- Provide accurate information on public and private benefits and programs;
- Help determine which benefits and programs you may be entitled to;
- Help you to fill out applications for benefits, programs and services;
- Talk with you about your choices and the programs or services that might best meet your needs;
- Provide assistance in obtaining or retaining benefits and services;
- Provide referrals, assistance and support on other matters including disability rights and the impact of earnings on financial eligibility for public benefits;
- In some cases, you may receive representation in formal appeals related to denials of eligibility, termination of benefits or overpayment of public and private benefits.

What Programs Can a Disability Benefit Specialist Help With?

Here are some areas and programs the disability benefit specialist can help you with:

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicare, including Part D
- Prescription Drug Assistance
- FoodShare
- Low-Income Tax Credits
- Insurance Issues
- Housing and Utility Issues
- Veterans' Benefits

How to Find a Disability Benefit Specialist

Disability benefit specialist services are available in counties with an **Aging and Disability Resource Center**.

To find out if your county has an Aging and Disability Resource Center, or to learn more about the Disability Benefit Specialist program:

- Visit the Wisconsin
  Department of Health Services' website at
   <u>http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/dis</u>
  - <u>abilities/benspecs/program.</u> <u>htm;</u> or
- Call the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources at (608) 266-2536