

OUTLOOK

Spotlight: Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)

by: Tara Finch

Do you pay for certain items or services so you can work? If so, the impairment-related work expense (IRWE) might be helpful to you. In most cases, the cost (out-of-pocket expense) of certain impairment-related items and services which you need to work can be deducted from your gross earnings.

What are some examples of IRWE's that can be deducted?

If you work, you may be able to deduct your out-of-pocket expenses for items like: medicine, medical supplies, medical devices, service animals, and disposable items such as bandages and syringes when figuring the amount of your earned income. You may also be able to deduct your out-of-pocket expenses for medical services such as doctors visits and some attendant care services charged for preparing you for work, attending to you while you are at work, or getting you to and from work. You may also deduct certain out-of-pocket expenses for transportation and modifications to your home, car or van to allow you to work. The expenses or costs must not be reimbursed or paid for by another source such as Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance carrier; and they must be related to your disability and needed in order for you to work.

How do we use IRWE to figure your SSI monthly payment?

If you are receiving SSI benefits, we will deduct the IRWE from your earned income when we figure your monthly payment amount. In most cases, we can deduct the out-of-pocket costs of these items from the amount of earnings we use to figure your SSI benefit. This means that you do not reduce your SSI benefit as much because we do not count all of your earnings.

Example: *Ellen receives SSI benefits because she is disabled. She works and earns \$1,025 a month, which is the only income she receives. She has the following work expense: She pays \$250/month to a special transportation service that she needs to get to and from work. Ellen has work-related expenses (IRWE) of \$250/month because she pays for the special transportation.*

What if I need the item or service both on and off the job?

Generally, it does not matter if you also need the item or service for daily living. For example, the cost of a wheelchair usually can be deducted from the earnings we might count even though the wheelchair is used for both daily living and work.

Are there any other rules that may help?

A person who is disabled may also use other SSI work incentives such as Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) and continued Medicaid coverage while working.

For more information, call 1(800)772-1213, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call Judy Jones at (360)875-9343.

June 2010

A Newsletter
from the Pacific
Co. Health &
Human Services
Dept.

Editor:
Melissa Sexton
Assistant Editor:

Points of interest:

- IRWE
- Local Workshop
- Interview : Kelsea Wallin, 2010 Grad
- Social Rec Activities

Coming Next Issue:

- Overview of DDD programs
- Interview w/ Greta McDougal

LOCAL WORKSHOP

Teaching New Skills (5 CEU Credits)

Date/Time: June 29, 2010 - 9:00am – 3:00pm (1 hr. lunch on your own)

Location: Harbor Alternative Living Assoc.,
111 S. Wooding St. Aberdeen, WA 98520

Instructor: Joe Hutchings

Cost: Free

This class introduces basic principles/techniques used to teach new skills to persons with developmental disabilities. Topics include: Deciding what to teach; Task Design; Task Analysis; Chaining, Cueing and Prompting; Preventing and Correcting Errors; Positive Reinforcement, Fading Cues and Reinforcers. Participants will gain understanding and experience through exercise and practice teaching sessions.

Who should attend: Adult Family Home Providers & Resident Managers, Caregivers, Medicaid Personal Care /Respite Providers, Group Home Staff, Supported Living staff, Companion Home providers, Employment Support Staff and Ombudsmen Representatives.

You must pre-register to attend. To register call/ e-mail Dee Nelson (360)537-4357 / NelsonDL@dshs.wa.gov or Selina Olson (360) 537-4360 / olson@s@dshs.wa.gov. Let them know if you need special accommodations when registering.

Additional classes are listed @ http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/cal_provider.shtml



Interview with Kelsea Wallin
2010 Graduate of Ilwaco High School
By: Sara Raaymakers

How does it feel to be graduating? "I'm not sad yet, but I will be because I won't be going back to school."

What was your favorite subject? "PE; my favorite sport is volleyball. I was the manager for 2 years."

What are your current career plans? "I am working as a house keeper at the Edgewater Motel. I got the job with the help of the Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)."

What type of work have you done? "I love working with Sandy at the college. I have worked at the Ilwaco Market, Humane Society, Veterinarian Clinic, and worked in the laundry at the Edgewater Motel."

What do you have planned for the summer? "Attend Camp Hope in August. I will be giving out prizes at the rodeo, selling tickets, and assisting with horse camp at the rodeo grounds."

What is your favorite hobby? "Riding horses."

Tell us more about your horses. "I have 2 horses, Bo (who I ride) and Tessa. I have been riding since I was 12 yrs old. I competed in barrel racing at the rodeo."

Do you have any other pets? "I have a lion head rabbit named Dust Bunny. He was raised on a bottle by Monica from the Planter Box. He has a bell he likes to ring. I have to tell him shhhhhh, quiet. I also have a Black Lab named York, a Yellow Lab named Sally and a Corgi named Sherry."

What is favorite color? "Pink"

What is your dream job? "Running my own animal day care and taking care of pets while people are on vacation. I do horse care now at the horse barn in Long Beach."

Editors Note*— Diann Wallin, Kelsea's mother, would like to tell parents to remember that they are their child's best advocate. Don't be afraid to ask for help.



SOCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES

"Let's Go to the Movies"

Movie: Iron Man 2
Location: Raymond Theatre
Address: 323 1/2 Third St.
Date: June 14, 2010
Time: 1:00-3:00 PM



Call Melissa if you plan to attend. 875-9343 / 642-9349

Please bring money for movie/concessions.
 Attendees are welcome to bring their own snacks.

Hilltop Bowl— May 10, 2010

Highest Overall Score (Game 1 & 2)

Carol Dziados—200

Most Strikes & Spares

Darren Ritzman—2 strikes & 2 spares
 (Game #1)



2nd Annual Baby Jamboree
August 6-8, 2010
WA State School for the Blind
Vancouver, WA

This is an exciting learning opportunity for families with infants & toddlers who are blind or visually impaired.

Families will learn about their child's visual impairment and what it means for his/her development and learning. They will leave the weekend feeling like the experts on their child's visual impairment and have a better understanding of their child's individual needs.

For More information, or to receive an application, please call: 1 (800)572-7000 or e-mail: wdsd@psesd.org

Applications are due June 10th (deadline may be extended). Applications are available to download at: www.wsdsonline.org

NEPTUNE THEATER

FREE Matinee Movies—
Every Wednesday @ 1PM



- June 16— "Road to Singapore" (1940)
- June 23— "Jubal" (1956)
- June 30— "The Wrecking Crew" (1968)
- July 7— "The Fighting 69th" (1940)
- July 14th— "After the Thin Man" (1930)

All shows begin at 1:00 PM. All ages admitted (subject to Theatre Capacity). Movies listed above ONLY.