

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)

2023 Fact Sheet on Work Incentives

What It Is:

- *Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) helps working students who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) earn income while attending school, keep more of their SSI payment, and improve their employment outcomes.*
-

How It Helps:

If you are receiving SSI benefits, under the age of 22, and regularly attending school, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will not count up to \$2,220 of earned income (wages) per month while attending school and working. The maximum yearly exclusion is \$8,950. These amounts are for the year 2023; they will be adjusted for future years based on the cost of living.

- SSA's definition of "regularly attending school" is that you take one or more courses of study and attend classes:
 - In a college or university for at least 8 hours a week; or
 - In grades 7 – 12 for at least 12 hours a week; or
 - In a training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice); or
 - For less time indicated above for reasons beyond the student's control, such as illness.
- **Note:** if you are home-schooled because of a disability, you may be considered "regularly attending school" by:
 - Studying a course(s) given by a school (grades 7 – 12), college, university, government agency; or
 - Having a home visitor or tutor who directs the study.

How It Works:

- If you receive SSI and start working, you must report your earnings to Social Security. You can call or visit your local Social Security Office and talk to an SSI Claims Representative.
- If you meet the qualifications described above, ask the SSA Claims Representative if you are eligible for the SEIE.
- If so, you can earn up to \$2,220 monthly, and your SSI benefits will not be reduced. If your annual earnings reach \$8,950, part of your earnings will then begin to affect your SSI benefits.
- SSA also uses a countable income formula in calculating SSI payments. After the SEIE is deducted, SSA will also deduct a \$20 General Income Exclusion and a \$65 Earned Income Exclusion. Following these exclusions, they will count \$1 for every \$2 that you earn when they calculate the amount of your new SSI payment.

A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand the SEIE and the Countable Income Formula that SSA uses to calculate your new SSI payment.

How To Find More Information and Help:

Ticket to Work Helpline

1-866-968-7842

Ky.db101.org

Center for Accessible Living

844-689-6620 (voice)

888-813-8652 (TTY)

wipa@calky.org

Goodwill Industries of KY

866-336-3316 (voice)

866-833-2976 (TTY)

workincentives@goodwillky.org