

# 1619(b), an SSI Work Incentive

## What is 1619(b)?

1619(b) is a work incentive for individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to continue receiving Medicaid health insurance even when they earn too much from work to receive an SSI cash benefit. To be eligible for 1619(b), an individual must:

- Have been eligible for an SSI cash payment for at least 1 month;
- Still meet the disability requirement; and
- Still meet all other non-disability SSI requirements; and
- Need Medicaid benefits to continue to work; and
- Have gross earnings that are insufficient to replace SSI, Medicaid and publicly funded attendant care services.

## What is an example of 1619(b)?

Suzanna receives SSI and Medicaid. Suzanna is employed and earns \$1,500 per month and has recently been offered a promotion that would increase their monthly income to \$3,300 per month. They need to know how it will affect their benefits.

Earning \$3,300 per month, even with standard work incentive deductions, would result in them receiving a \$0 cash benefit from SSI. In other words, they would earn too much to get an SSI cash benefit. Typically, this would mean they are not eligible for SSI or Medicaid; however, because this is a result of work income, they would be eligible for 1619(b) and can maintain their Medicaid.

What happens if Suzanna's income is reduced because they lose their job, their hours are reduced, or another change occurs that results in lower income? After informing the Social Security Administration of any of these changes, Suzanna's status may be changed to receive SSI cash benefit again, and they would stop using 1619(b) at this point.

## Remember:

Informing SSA about any change of address, employment status, income, or Impairment Related Work Expenses, is essential. Only with this information can SSA make the appropriate changes to your benefits and case.

## Resources

Social Security Administration:

[https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/1619b.htm#:~:text=Section%201619\(b\)%20of%20the,meet%20the%20disability%20requirement%3B%20and](https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/1619b.htm#:~:text=Section%201619(b)%20of%20the,meet%20the%20disability%20requirement%3B%20and)

SSA phone number: 1-800-772-1213 or 1-800-325-0778 (TTY)