

Why choose benefits counseling?

Trying to figure out how work affects public benefit programs like SSI, SSDI, SNAP, Medicaid, or other programs can be an overwhelming process for anyone, especially people living with HIV/AIDS.

Working with a benefits counselor will help ease your fears by providing information about the rules when you begin to work and how you may be able to keep some of your benefits when you work. With this information you can make the best choice for yourself.

Benefits Counseling Providers

Central NY

Legal Services of Central New York
315-703-6597

Finger Lakes

LawNY (in association with Volunteer Legal Services Project)
607-273-3667

Northeastern NY

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
(in association with Albany Law School)
518-462-6765

Western NY

Neighborhood Legal Services
(in association with Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project)
716-847-0650 ext. 253

Hudson Valley

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
877-574-8529

Long Island

Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee
631-232-2400

New York City

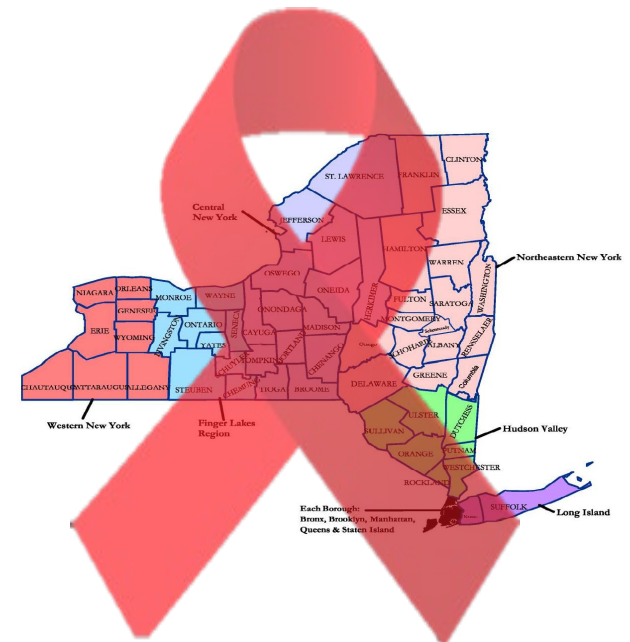
The Family Center
718-230-1379

African Services Committee
212-222-3882

New York Council on Adoptable Children
212-475-0222

Benefits Counseling Pilot Project

Helping those living with HIV/AIDS manage their government benefits while working or returning to work.





Benefits Counseling Pilot Project

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has launched the Benefits Counseling Pilot Project to help people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) who are employed or seeking employment to understand how earnings impact their public benefits.

Participants will learn what benefits they can receive while they are working to increase their financial independence.

The stress involved in navigating a complex benefits system can negatively impact the health of PLWH. Having a strong knowledge of what work incentives are available can put PLWH at ease, as they can then focus on their health while feeling confident about their financial stability.

Services Provided

Credentialed benefits counselors provide one-on-one support by helping to:

- calculate benefit amounts based on your earnings
- educate you on special work rules and additional benefits
- budget money to plan for your future
- explain medical insurance coverage such as Medicaid/Medicare
- access networks of community providers and resources
- refer you to legal, employment and other services.

Please note: Providers will not assist with employment readiness services and will refer consumers for vocational rehabilitation as needed.



To be eligible for benefits counseling services, you must:

- have documented proof of HIV/AIDS status
 - be a New York State Resident
 - meet all income requirements
 - complete an intake/assessment for HIV related needs/services
 - be currently employed or searching for employment and need assistance with understanding how your earnings affects/will affect your benefits
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We can work with you remotely!

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