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California's Protection & Advocacy System

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security - PABSS

Purpose of the PABSS Program

The purpose of the PABSS program is to provide SSI and SSDI beneficiary's information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and other employment services.

The PABSS program is also required to provide advocacy and other services that a beneficiary needs to secure or regain gainful employment.

PABSS Program Priorities

1. Investigate and review any complaint of improper or inadequate services provided to a beneficiary with a disability by a service provider, employer or other entity involved in the beneficiary's return to work effort.
2. Provide information and referrals to Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities about work incentives and employment, including information on the types of services and assistance that may be available to assist them in securing or regaining gainful employment, particularly services and assistance available through Employment Networks (en) under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program.
3. Provide information and technical assistance on work incentives to beneficiaries with disabilities.
4. Provide consultation to and legal representation on behalf of beneficiaries with disabilities regarding return to work issues when such services become necessary to protect the rights of such beneficiaries.

"Advancing the human and legal rights of people with disabilities."

5. Assist beneficiaries with disabilities in disputes before SSA involving work-related program decisions.
6. Provide information and technical assistance to governmental agencies, employment networks (en) and other service providers and advocacy organizations.
7. Advocate to identify and correct deficiencies in entities providing vocational rehabilitation service, employment services and other support services to beneficiaries with disabilities.

Who is Eligible to participate in the PABSS Program?

To be PABSS eligible you must:

Receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on a disability or

Previously received SSDI or SSI due to a disability and

Now receive Medi-Cal under 1619(b); or
Receive continuing Medicare coverage.

*SSA has reviewed this publication for technical accuracy only;
however, this should not be considered an official SSA document.*
