

## Self-Employment Fact Sheet

---

*February 2014, Pub. #5454.01*

The information in this fact sheet was taken from Making Self-employment Work for People with Disabilities (Griffin & Hammis, 2003).

### **WHAT IS SELF-EMPLOYMENT?**

Self-employment is grounded in the belief that people have strengths, interests, preferences and an innate ability to perform work competently when offered choices, respect, hope and opportunities.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT?**

- The U.S. economy is allowing self-employment to grow substantially.
- Self-employment offers Social Security beneficiaries a financial cushion during the business start-up phase.
- Self-employed persons with disabilities may have access to alternate resources of capital to build their business.
- Self-employment can work for people with significant disabilities.
- Self-employment allows the individual to schedule the work day according to personal productivity, disability symptoms and goals.

### **WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESSES COULD I OWN?**

- Sole Proprietorships – The owner and the business are the same.

- Partnerships – A business with more than one owner where the profits and losses are divided among the partners.
- Limited Liability Companies (LLC) – A type of partnership that allows for the reduced personal liability of a corporation but with the tax advantages of a partnership.
- Incorporation – Usually companies with employees, attorney costs and licensing fees.

## **CAN I HAVE MY OWN BUSINESS AND STILL GET MY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?**

Social Security work incentives can be implemented to assist in the pursuit of your self-employment goal. It is important to get Benefits Planning to take advantage and understand how Social Security work incentives can help you.

## **WHERE CAN I GET HELP?**

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR): <http://www.dor.ca.gov>

American Job Centers: <http://www.edd.ca.gov/ONE-STOP/pic.htm>

Employment Network (EN): <http://www.yourtickettowork.com>

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Projects (WIPA):  
<http://www.ssa.gov/work/ServiceProviders/WIPA> Directory

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS):  
<http://www.disabilityrightsca.org>; or call 800-776-5746

The SSA has reviewed this document for accuracy only, however, this should not be considered an official SSA document.

*Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.*