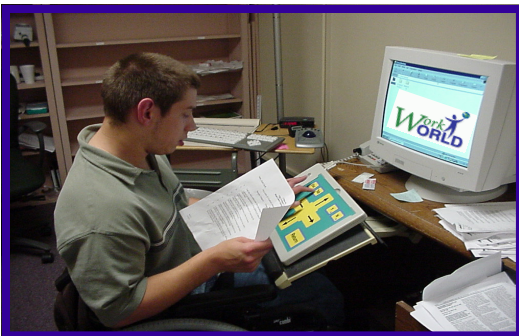


Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD)

Healthcare insurance coverage through Medicaid may be available to certain individuals who are employed, have a significant disability, and meet specific eligibility criteria. This coverage is available through the MAWD program as a work incentive to encourage individuals with disabilities to become employed.

Staff from the Department of Social Services (DSS), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) can assist in screening and referring potential candidates for program eligibility.

Although new, the MAWD program has already provided needed healthcare coverage to eligible South Dakotans with significant disabilities who are employed. If you or someone you know might benefit from this program, please contact your local DSS, DRS or SBVI office or FTW staff for additional information.



Freedom To Work Project

221 S. Central
Pierre, SD 57501
phone: (605) 945-2207
toll-free: (800) 210-0143
website: <http://sd-ccd.org/ftw>

SD Benefits Specialists

221 S. Central
Pierre, SD 57501
phone: (605) 224-5336
toll-free: (800) 224-5336

Social Security Online

website: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>



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Freedom To Work

Everybody Works,

Everybody Wins!

**A Resource
for the Job Seeker**

South Dakota's Freedom to Work Project is working to strengthen the current service delivery system, which supports people with disabilities seeking employment. One way we're doing this is to provide information to people that we hope will assist them in accessing needed services.



If you are a person with a disability, who is actively seeking a career, the following services and/or agencies may be of assistance to you.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Vocational Rehabilitation is a program that provides individualized vocational services to assist people with significant disabilities to get and keep jobs compatible with their disability. To be eligible for VR services, a person must have a physical or mental impairment which results in a substantial impediment to employment. The types of services that may be a part of an eligible person's "Individualized Plan for Employment" are:

- vocational counseling
- work skills
- personal support services
- job site accommodations
- medical services
- job placement
- employment services

If you are a person with a disability and want to learn more about available Vocational Rehabilitation Services or to find an office in your area, you can call 1-800-265-9684 or you may go to the Division of Rehabilitation Services website at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/drs>.

If you are a person with a significant visual impairment or blindness and want to learn more about available Vocational Rehabilitation Services, you can call 1-800-265-9684 or you may go to the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired website at: <http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/sbvi>.

Career Centers

SD Career Centers have many ways to help job seekers find employment opportunities. Career Center representatives can help applicants identify their career interests, write a resume, locate possible jobs, complete the application process and prepare for a job interview. Navigators have been added to their staff to specifically assist people with disabilities in accessing needed services. You may contact the Department of Labor to find out more about SD Career Centers or Navigators by calling 605-773-3101 or going to the South Dakota Department of Labor website at <http://www.sdjobs.org>.



SD Benefits Specialists

There are six Benefits Specialists in South Dakota who are available to provide advice and support on managing your benefits. They can also assist you with advice on Social Security Work Incentives such as:

- PASS
- IRWE
- Subsidy
- SEIE
- Section 1619(b)

They can also assist with Food Stamps, public assistance, and other disability related benefits. To contact a Benefits Specialist, call 1-800-224-5336.

Career Learning Centers (CLC)

Career Learning Centers work closely with Career Centers to provide education and training services that meet the needs of local employers and job seekers. The centers enroll participants from a wide range of backgrounds. The curriculum in a career learning center is individualized, self-paced, and open entry/exit. Career specialists determine the individual person's interests, aptitudes, abilities and motivation. Then an employability plan is prepared to address that person's education and job training needs. Participants not only learn how to look for a job, they also learn job retention skills so they know what employers expect. To get more information, go to the Department of Labor website at <http://www.sdjobs.org>.

Personal Assistance Services (PAS)

Personal Assistance Services will allow an individual who is eligible for personal care services in the home to also access these services in the workplace. PAS are not to replace an employer's accommodation responsibilities as specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information on PAS, contact the Coordinator of Attendant Services of the Division of Rehabilitation Services at 1-800-265-9684.