

GOING TO WORK <<<<

A Guide to Social Security Benefits and Employment for Young People with Disabilities
Annual Supplement—2012 Figures



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012?

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index from the third quarter of 2008 through the third quarter of 2011, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a **3.6 percent COLA** for 2012.

Other important updates:

- The **Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)** amount for individuals with disabilities other than blindness has increased from \$1000/month to **\$1010**.
- The **SGA amount for individuals who are blind** has increased from \$1640/month to **\$1690**.
- The monthly earnings amount used to determine if a month counts for a **Trial Work Period (TWP)** remains the same at **\$720**.
- The income amount that will have no effect on benefits for SSI beneficiaries who are **students (Student Earned Income Exclusion)** has increased from \$1640/month to **\$1700**. The **yearly maximum** amount has increased from \$6600 to **\$6840**.
- The **1619b Massachusetts State Threshold Amount** for individuals receiving SSI is **\$37,685 (\$38,187** for people who are blind). This means that even if SSI cash benefits are eliminated, MassHealth coverage will remain in effect until annual earnings reach this threshold amount.

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