



# Opening Doors to Work

## Utah's Employment Connection

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation  
(800) 473-7530  
[www.usor.utah.gov](http://www.usor.utah.gov)

Utah Department of Workforce Services  
(801) 526-WORK  
[www.jobs.utah.gov](http://www.jobs.utah.gov)

Work Ability Utah  
(877) 256-9675  
[www.workabilityutah.org](http://www.workabilityutah.org)

Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach  
(866) 454-8397

Utah Center for Assistive Technology  
(888) 866-5550

## Going to Work - The Adventure Begins!

Going to work means having money, but it is more than that. Work is an adventure that gives meaning to your day and improves your self confidence. Work leads to more independence and control of your life.

However, sometimes going to work can be a challenge. You may need training for a job. You may want to be sure to have healthcare or other

benefits. You may need affordable housing or supports and services to go to work. Using the right



programs and services can help you succeed.

Read and explore the many services and supports that you can use to go to work and increase your independence. To learn more, go to [www.workabilityutah.org](http://www.workabilityutah.org) or call (877) 246-9675 toll free.

## The Utah Resource just for Utah Job Seekers!

## Incentives to Working!

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**How will working affect your Social Security benefits?** BPAO (Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach) and WIPA (Work Incentives Planning and Assistance) programs give Social Security disability beneficiaries information on how working affects benefits. These programs consider benefits like food stamps, Medicaid, housing and more. Understand your options to make an informed choice about working. To learn more, call (866) 454-8397 toll free or see [www.workabilityutah.org/work](http://www.workabilityutah.org/work).

**Worried about your Medicaid if you go to work?** MWI (Medicaid Work Incentive) is for people with disabilities who are working. Under this program, people can earn more money; have higher assets and a retirement account. A worker pays a monthly premium (up to 15%) of his or her countable income and keeps Medicaid. To learn more or enroll, contact your local DWS office or call (877) 246-9675 toll free. Also see [www.workabilityutah.org/healthcare/mwi](http://www.workabilityutah.org/healthcare/mwi).

**Need help with personal care to work?** EPAS (Employment Personal Assistance Services) is for people with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid and need personal assistance to keep a job. A licensed agency or qualified personal care assistant can provide services at home, work and/or in the community. Services may include bathing, cooking, house cleaning, transportation and money management. See [www.workabilityutah.org/healthcare/epas](http://www.workabilityutah.org/healthcare/epas) or call (801) 538-6165 to learn more.

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*"No artificial barriers should prevent individuals from reaching their potential in the workplace and contributing their skills to our nation,"*  
 -Hilda L. Solis.

# Job Training and Supports

## VR (Vocational Rehabilitation)

VR assists and empowers eligible people with disabilities to achieve and maintain meaningful employment. To receive VR services, a person must 1) have a disability, 2) have difficulty getting or keeping a job and 3) need VR services to succeed in work. VR helps people prepare for work

through training, education and placement. The goal is to work and live more independently in the community. VR services are based on an individual's career goals and needs.

To learn more or find an office, see [www.usor.utah.gov](http://www.usor.utah.gov), or call (800) 473-7530 toll free.

## Ticket to Work

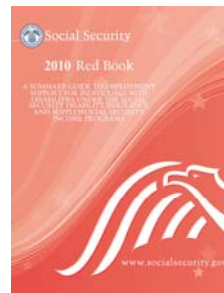
People who receive Social Security disability benefits also get a "Ticket to Work". The

recipient can use this Ticket to get job training and supports to go to work. To use the "Ticket to Work", the person contacts an Employment Network. Together they discuss what services are needed and agree on a plan to go to work and increase earnings.

To learn more, or to use your "Ticket to Work", see [www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com) or [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work).

## Social Security & Work

SSA (Social Security Administration) has developed procedures for people with disabilities who receive benefits and who want to work. Both SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) and SSI (Supplemental Security Income) have supports called work incentives to help people test going to work. Social Security's **Red Book** explains these work incentives. It contains descriptions of SSA's disability policies. Learn about applying, needed documentation, how income is counted and each of the work incentives. Work incentives include: IRWEs



(Impairment-Related Work Expenses), SEIE (Student Earned Income Exclusion) and TWP (Trial Work Period). Find The Red Book online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook). It is also available in Spanish. You also want to contact Social Security to learn how these work incentives apply to you.

## Utah is the Model Employer

The State of Utah is the "Model Employer of People with Disabilities". The ASAP (Alternative State Application Program) allows qualified applicants with disabilities to be hired quickly to fill vacancies. New hires with disabilities go through an "on the job examination period" then serve a probationary period and prove their skills. Jobs eligible to be filled with ASAP are posted on the job seeker website.

Find jobs at <http://statejobs.utah.gov>. Interested applicants may contact Shannon Casias at (801) 538-9683.



## DWS - Dept. of Workforce Services

DWS (Department of Workforce Services) is a one-stop resource for Utahns. At your local office or online, search for jobs, register for job notifications, find Job Fairs and explore 'hot' career fields. You can

also attend workshops or get training assistance. At DWS you can also apply for healthcare, food stamps, child care and other assistance.

To learn more, see [www.jobs.utah.gov](http://www.jobs.utah.gov), and to

find an office near you, see [www.jobs.utah.gov/regions/ec.html](http://www.jobs.utah.gov/regions/ec.html).



# Special Needs Trust - Planning with Assets

A person who receives SSI (Supplemental Security Income) or Medicaid must limit his or her assets to less than \$2000 or \$3000, if married. The person may own the house they live in and one vehicle. However, there is a way to set aside inheritances, settlements or other monies

for the benefit of the person who receives SSI or Medicaid. A Special Needs Trust provides for the needs of a person with a disability without disrupting benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid. There are limits on how the money from the Special Needs

Trust may be used. It is best to contact an attorney with experience and who specializes in Special Needs Trusts. To learn more, contact the Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach program at (866) 454-8397 toll free.



## Resources to Find the Right Job!

### PWDNET (People With Disabilities Network)

The PWDNET links businesses and job seekers to fill vacant positions with qualified work-ready individuals with disabilities. PWDNET employers receive training and supports to understand how to recruit, hire and retain individuals with disabilities. Job Seekers can be confident the employers have knowledge about disability issues and understand accommodations through the entire employment process. Look who's hiring today!

To find PWDNET job openings see [www.usor.utah.gov](http://www.usor.utah.gov) or [www.workabilityutah.org](http://www.workabilityutah.org).

### OJT (On the Job Training)

OJT is a chance to "Learn and Earn". OJT is an excellent opportunity to use your skills. Be trained in your employer's workplace and help you gain long term employment. USOR (Utah State Office of Rehabilitation) will pay employers a training fee to hire you, a qualified employee with a disability. OJT is the opportunity to earn while you learn all or a portion of a job under the actual conditions of the real job!

See what OJT opportunities are available today at [www.workabilityutah.org/work/onthejob](http://www.workabilityutah.org/work/onthejob).

### CTW (Choose To Work)

The CTW service links work-ready jobseekers with disabilities and business. This ensures a good match of skills with the workplace. If you are trained and ready to work, the CTW Specialist may help you find employment.



Follow-up services for both the business and the employee ensures ongoing career success.

To learn more, see [www.usor.utah.gov/choose-to-work](http://www.usor.utah.gov/choose-to-work) or call (800) 473-7530 toll free.

## Veteran's Benefits - Return to Work

Veterans may be eligible for a broad range of programs. Eligibility for most benefits through the Veteran's Administration (VA) is based on discharge status from active service. There are programs for educational benefits, health



**Thank you for your service to our country!**

care, disability benefits, home loans, starting a business, property tax abatement, etc.

To learn more, contact the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 894-9497 toll free or (801) 326-2372 or online at <http://veterans.utah.gov>.

*This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.*  
-Elmer Davis

**Employment - Healthcare - Housing - Transportation - Transitioning from School to Work - Business - ADA - More! See [www.workabilityutah.org](http://www.workabilityutah.org).**





Information and referral resource!



# Programs Assist Low Income Households

Help is available for households who have low income to become more self-sufficient. These programs are operated by the State of Utah, federal agencies and other organizations.

To get help with **utility bills** such as electricity, gas and telephone, contact the SEAL (State Energy

Assistance and Lifeline). To learn more and find eligibility criteria see [www.housing.utah.gov/seal](http://www.housing.utah.gov/seal).

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps to **reduce energy costs**. To learn more and apply see [www.housing.utah.gov/wap](http://www.housing.utah.gov/wap).

It can be a challenge for people with low income to find a

safe and affordable place to live. Local **housing** authorities may be able to help qualified individuals and families. To learn more and find the housing authority near you, see [www.housing.utah.gov](http://www.housing.utah.gov). You can also search for affordable housing online at [www.findhousing.utah.gov](http://www.findhousing.utah.gov).

## AT - Assistive Technology

AT (assistive technology) empowers people with disabilities to complete daily living tasks; increase access to communication, education, work or recreation. In one word: Independence! High and low tech options may meet your needs.

**UCAT (Utah Center for Assistive Technology)** helps people with disabilities become more independent. UCAT is a statewide resource to help people to decide what device or aid will match their needs. UCAT provides free assessments, equipment review and trials, and information about



funding sources. They also modify or make devices if needed. To learn more, visit [www.ucat.usor.utah.gov](http://www.ucat.usor.utah.gov) or call (888) 866-5550 toll free.

**UTAF (Utah Assistive Technology Foundation)** is a private, non-profit organization that works with local financial institutions to provide low-

interest loans. Loans may be used to purchase technology and devices, or to capitalize a small business. UATF also offers small grants of \$250 or less to eligible families. To learn more see [www.uatf.org](http://www.uatf.org) or call (800) 524-5152 toll free.

**CReATE (Citizens Reutilizing Assistive Technology Equipment)** refurbishes power and manual wheelchairs and scooters, then makes them available at a low cost. You can also donate mobility technology to CReATE. To learn more, see [www.uatpat.org/create/](http://www.uatpat.org/create/) or call (801) 887-9398.

## The Savings Plan for Independence - An IDA!

IDAs (Individual Development Accounts) are ways to save money. The matched savings accounts are designed to build wealth and achieve economic independence. When you save \$1, the program matches it with \$3. An account can be opened with as little as \$15. You can save up to \$1500 to purchase a first home, to begin or capitalize a small business, or pay for higher education.

In 2009, the state legislature changed the law to include assistive technology. People with disabilities can now save for work-related technologies. Assets provide people with more options and can help working families move out of poverty.

To learn more, including eligibility and how to apply, contact [www.uidan.org](http://www.uidan.org) or call (877) 787-0727 toll free.



**Save \$\$\$ Today!**