

The Webinar Will Begin Shortly

- Today's webinar will begin at 1:00 p.m. EDT.
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- If you are having difficulty logging in, please contact Shajira Brown at sbrown@ndi-inc.org.



Building Financial Security for
People and Families with Disabilities



Mayor's Office for
People with Disabilities

Consumer
Affairs



CitiCommunityDevelopment.com



Money and Benefits: Why Financial Empowerment Is Critical to Work



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People and Families with Disabilities



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Listening to the Webinar (continued)

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1-650-479-3207

Event number:

665-463-509

You do not need to enter
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Submitting Questions

For Q&A: Please use the chat box or Q&A box to send any questions you have during the webinar, and we will direct the questions accordingly during the Q&A portion.

If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing questions to sbrown@ndi-inc.org.

Please note: This webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on this webpage:

<https://www.realeconomicimpact.org/our-work/financial-counseling>.

Technical Assistance

If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the chat box to send a message to Shajira Brown, Project Coordinator, or email her at sbrown@ndi-inc.org.

Partner Introductions



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EmpoweredNYC

- EmpoweredNYC is a groundbreaking new partnership dedicated to improving the financial stability of New Yorkers with disabilities and their families.
- The EmpoweredNYC collaboration is an initiative that will create, test and promote new strategies to enable New Yorkers with disabilities to improve their financial stability. This initiative will advance financial capability through broad engagement and education, tailored one-on-one financial counseling enhanced with new expertise, outreach and tools and specialized benefits support services.

Strategic Partners

- NYC Office of Financial Empowerment
- Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- Citi Community Development
- National Disability Institute
- Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City
- Poses Family Foundation
- Advisory Board of municipal offices, disability service providers and financial empowerment service providers

NYC Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE)

- **DCA** protects and enhances the daily economic lives of New Yorkers to create thriving communities.
- Within DCA, **OFE** is the first local government initiative in the country with the mission to educate, empower and protect New Yorkers and their neighborhoods so they can improve their financial health and build assets.

Learn more:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/partners/financial-empowerment.page>

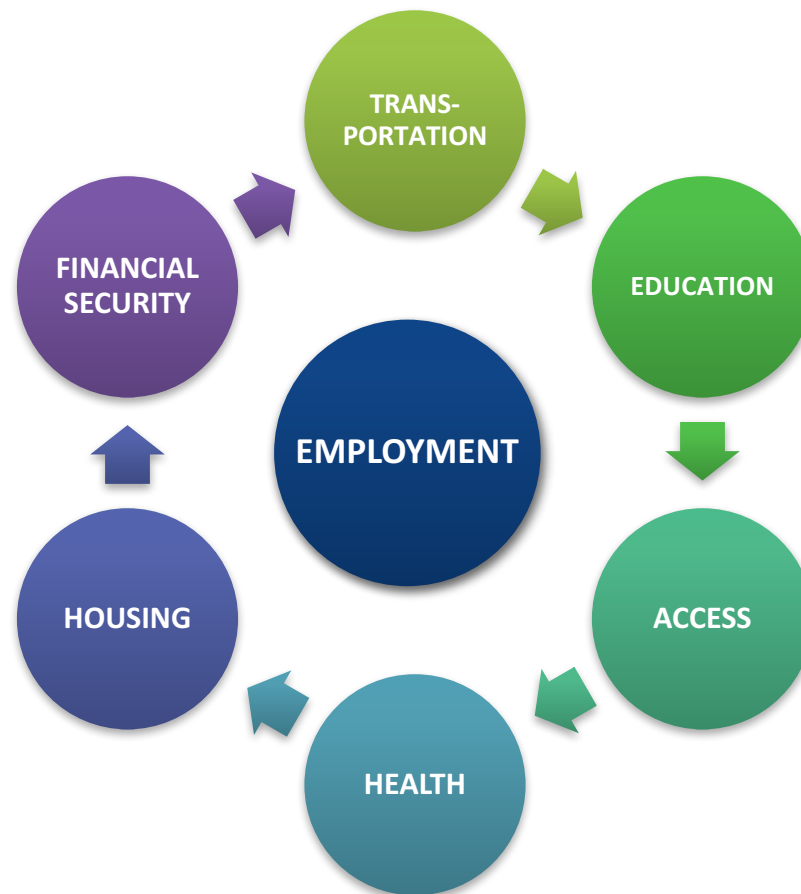
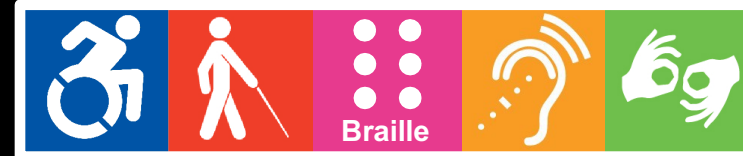


NYC Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)

- **MOPD** works to ensure that New Yorkers with disabilities can lead happy, healthy and productive lives.
- **NYC: ATWORK** connects people with disabilities to meaningful, living wage jobs across the five boroughs.
- **MOPD** improves services and programs for the over 920,000 New Yorkers who self-identify as people who are living with a disability.

Learn more: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/index.page>





AccessibleNYC Pillars



@NYCDisabilities



THE FIRST PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES

- Innovative, cross-systems approach to building a sustainable pipeline of qualified talent to meet the needs of businesses in high-growth industry jobs across NYC
- Business-led, business-driven initiative
- **NYC: ATWORK** is a collaboration among providers, businesses in high growth sectors, vocational rehabilitation, schools and colleges, and NYC government



Citi Community Development

- Citi Community Development leads Citi's commitment to financial inclusion and economic empowerment for underserved individuals, families and communities across the U.S.
- Through innovative collaborations with municipalities, community groups and leading nonprofit organizations, Citi's expertise, products and services are harnessed to help expand opportunity for all.



CitiCommunityDevelopment.com

Today's Presenter



Nancy Boutot

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National Disability Institute (NDI)

- **NDI** is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to building a better economic future for people with disabilities.
- The first national organization committed exclusively to championing economic empowerment, financial education, asset development and financial stability for all persons with disabilities. NDI affects change through public education, policy development, training, technical assistance and innovative initiatives.



Today's Objectives

- **Recognize** the importance of financial empowerment for individuals with disabilities.
- **Understand** how public benefits limit an individual's financial empowerment.
- **Identify** and debunk common myths about Social Security Disability benefits.
- **Define** action steps you can take to improve the financial empowerment of your customers and yourself.

What Is Financial Empowerment?

Financial empowerment is the ability and confidence of individuals and communities to make financial decisions that promote their long-term financial stability and financial health. OFE envisions a city where all New Yorkers and communities are financially empowered regardless of their income or the income of their residents.

The Case For Financial Empowerment

Financial Challenges Faced by Individuals with Disabilities

People with disabilities are more likely to have disability-related expenses and lower household incomes.

- Disability-related expenses:
 - Increased medical expenses/health insurance
 - Payment for durable medical equipment (such as wheelchairs)
 - Home modifications
 - Transportation
- Lower household incomes
 - In New York city, nearly 58% of individuals with disabilities make less than \$35,000 a year.

Reference: United States Census Bureau – 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Positive Outcomes of Financial Empowerment on Physical and Mental Health

- Decreased health risks due to increased access to medical care
- Decreased stress due to ability to save, pay bills, make ends meet
- Increased access to community services/transportation
- Increased mental health stability
- Greater educational attainment
- Increased civic engagement

Public Benefits Can Limit Financial Empowerment

While public benefits provide a safety net, they also create dependence that limits one's ability to increase earnings and/or savings

- Social Security Disability benefits
- SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Public Housing/HUD/Section 8
- Medicaid and/or Medicare

Are you familiar with Social Security Disability Benefits?

Yes

No

What Are Social Security Disability Benefits?

The Social Security Administration has two programs to support individuals with disabilities who are unable to work at a substantial level.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

- Insurance for former workers and their eligible dependents
- Not means tested

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Safety Net
- Needs based

Common Myths About Disability Benefits that Limit Financial Empowerment

1. I can't work more than part-time and keep my Social Security Disability cash benefits.
2. I have to receive at least \$1 in SSI or SSDI to keep my Medicaid or Medicare.

Myth #1 - I can't work more than part-time and keep my Social Security Disability cash benefits.

SSDI RULE:

- SSDI cash benefits are based on amount earned, NOT number of hours worked.
- SSDI provides 12-months of full cash benefits when one first returns to work – no matter how much money is earned.
- SSDI has an SGA rule – 2018 monthly countable earnings of \$1180 (non-blind) and \$1970 (blind).
- Use of work incentives can reduce countable earnings, which may allow one to earn more and maintain cash benefits.

Myth #1 (cont.) – I can't work more than part-time and keep my Social Security Disability cash benefits.

SSI Rule:

- SSI cash benefits are based on amount earned, NOT number of hours worked.
- The amount of the SSI check will be decreased based on monthly countable income (earned and unearned).
- Use of work incentives can reduce countable earnings, which may allow one to earn more and maintain cash benefits.

Myth #2 - I have to receive at least \$1 in SSI or SSDI to keep my Medicaid or Medicare

SSI Medicaid Rule:

You may qualify for Continued Medicaid Eligibility under 1619(b) if you:

- SSI cash benefits end due to earned income
- Remain disabled
- Have resources under \$2000 (\$3000/couple)
- Need Medicaid to work
- Have been eligible for SSI for at least one month

**Annual earnings below State Threshold Amount – New York = \$45,812
(2018)**

- An individualized threshold amount may be available.

Myth #2 (cont.) - I have to receive at least \$1 in SSI or SSDI to keep my Medicaid or Medicare

SSDI Medicare Rule:

If your SSDI cash benefits end due to earnings, you may:

- Continue to receive at least 93 months (7 years and 9 months) of free Medicare Part A.
- Continue other parts of your Medicare if you purchase them or qualify for assistance through the state.

If you want to continue your Medicare coverage after the 93-month period of Extended (FREE) Medicare Coverage ends, you can buy Medicare coverage as long as you continue to be disabled.

New York Medicaid Buy-In Program

To qualify for the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities, you must:

- Be a resident of New York State;
- Be at least 16 years of age (coverage up to 65 years of age);
- Have a disability as defined by the Social Security Administration;
- Be engaged in paid work (includes part-time and full-time work);
- Have gross income up to \$61,740 for an individual and \$83,340 for a couple; and
- Have resources below \$20,000 (one-person household) / \$30,000 (two-person household).

NOTE: Retirement accounts excluded (e.g. pensions; IRAs; 401(k) and Keogh plans)

Learn more: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/buy_in/

Employment and Financial Empowerment

- Less reliance on public benefits
- Access to good information
- Greater ability to make sound financial decisions
- More control over day-to-day and month-to-month finances
- Save for emergencies and absorb financial shocks
- Set and reach financial goals
- Contribute to the workforce in meaningful ways
- Meet personal psychosocial needs

Empowered NYC: Financial Empowerment for New Yorkers with Disabilities

Financial Counseling & Coaching Services



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[File Your Taxes](#)

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Get Free Financial Counseling

At the City's **Financial Empowerment Center**, you can meet one-on-one with a professional, financial counselor who can help you:

- Tackle debt
- Improve your credit
- Create a budget
- Open a bank account
- Save and plan for your future
- Keep your personal and business finances separate ([Download flyer in English and Español/Spanish](#))
- And much more

- Free, high-quality, confidential service
- One-on-one meetings with certified financial counselors
- Covers a broad range of financial issues
- Customized to individuals with disabilities and their families
- Integrates critical information about disability benefits

Action Items

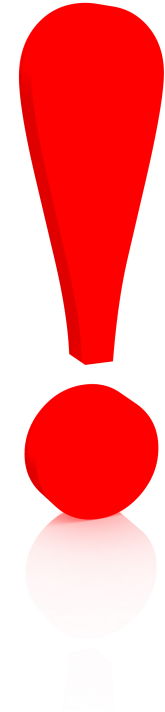
1. **Join the Empowerment ED webinar training series** each month:
<https://ndiwebinars.webex.com/ndiwebinars/onstage/g.php?MTID=e43158f0766771be66f6a3fed36349c5b>
2. **Advertise the series** to your staff and community partners.
3. **Test Financial Counseling** on yourself. Call 311 to request an appointment to meet with a Financial Counselor.
4. **Encourage** your staff, customers and families to register for the **Empowered Cities' Listserv** to get the latest updates and resources:
<https://www.realeconomicimpact.org/financial-counseling/empowered-cities>.

Action Items (cont.)

Most Importantly

Keep joining us each month to:

1. Build your knowledge and your level of comfort regarding financial empowerment
2. Get ready to refer your customers to the new financial counseling pilot – coming this fall!



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Questions?



Join Us For Our Next Training

Overview of SSDI Benefits and Work Supports

Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Registration:

<https://ndiwebinars.webex.com/ndiwebinars/onstage/g.php?MTID=e43158f0766771be66f6a3fed36349c5b>

Please take our survey.

Your feedback will help us develop a training series to meet the needs of NYC providers.