



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

Employment and Social Security

How do we pay for employment services?

The state agency that provides funding for employment services for people with disabilities is the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). If your child is still in school, you should connect with the DARS Transition Counselor assigned to each campus. If your child is out of school, you should make an appointment to meet with the DARS Vocational Counselor assigned to your area of the Metroplex. To assist families in making the necessary connections, DARS has assigned a “liaison” to the Down Syndrome Guild. You may contact Margo Wheeler Rye at 214-778-4938 or email Margo.Rye@dars.state.tx.us

Can my child with Down syndrome work and keep Social Security benefits?

YES, many adults with disabilities earn wages and are able to keep at least a portion of their monthly Social Security check and their eligibility for Medicaid – but you have to know the rules and regulations. It is a complicated system but help is available through a **FREE** program called “**Work Incentives Planning and Assistance.**”

A community work incentives coordinator will meet with you and your child to develop a personalized, written benefits report that provides detailed information about the various options, including Earned Income Exclusion; SSI Continuation; Student Earned Income Exclusion; Work Expenses Exclusion; Protection of Medicaid 1619B; and Plan for Achieving Self-Support (*PASS- for more details on this program PASS information page*). This valuable information allows a person with a disability to make an informed decision about seeking employment.

Easter Seals of North Texas has received a grant from the Social Security Administration to provide this service to 21 North Texas counties through 2010. For more information, contact Cindy Herzog, Director of the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program for Dallas and Denton counties, at 888-617-7171 ext. 1038 or email Cindy at cherzog@ntx.easterseals.com. For Collin, Grayson, Hunt, and Cook Counties, contact Lucy Endermark at 469-742-0887.