

## **Blind Work Expenses (BWE)**

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The BWE incentive program applies to SSI recipients whose primary diagnosis is blindness. A BWE is not an SSDI work incentive, it cannot be used in calculating income to determine if SGA has been reached. Any earned income, which is used to meet any expense reasonably attributed to earned income, is not counted in determining the SSI eligibility and monthly cash payments of the individual.

Many of the requirements for BWE match those for IRWE's; the cost must be paid by the individual, paid during a month the person was working, must be reasonable; and the individual must provide proof of payment and verification of need for the item or service, upon request. However, this is a more powerful work incentive than the IRWE for two reasons:

1. The expenses claimed do not have to relate to the person's disability, only to their employment efforts; and
2. The amount of the BWE is excluded after the divide-by-two step.

### **Possible Allowable Expenses Under the BWE**

- ❑ Guide dogs
- ❑ Fees and licenses
- ❑ Transportation to and from work
- ❑ Vehicle modifications
- ❑ Training
- ❑ Taxes
- ❑ Other work-related equipment and services
- ❑ Non-medical equipment and services
- ❑ Drugs and medical services which enable the person to work
- ❑ Pension contributions
- ❑ Meals consumed during work hours
- ❑ Attendant care services