

VocRehab *Vermont*

WHAT IS A BENEFITS COUNSELOR?

A Benefits Counselor:

Works with individuals receiving assistance through the state and/or receiving disability benefits (ranges from healthcare to food stamps to Social Security).

How can a Benefits Counselor help me?

A Benefits Counselor can help:

- explain what will happen to the benefits someone receives when they go to work.
- individuals plan for work or greater independence.
- individuals take advantage of work incentives that will increase the amount of money available to them.
- tell individuals about programs that may allow them to keep necessary cash or health benefits when they go to work or school.
- explain notices received from Social Security or the Economic Services Division (ESD) (formerly PATH) that are difficult to understand.
- teach individuals how to report their earnings, if necessary, to Social Security and/or ESD.

Most of all, benefits counselors are here to help you understand your benefits. Please call 1-800-361-1239 to be connected to a benefits counselor nearest you.