

# 6 FAST FACTS

## Work Incentives Benefits Counseling

1

Many individuals with disabilities and their families fear they will lose Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid benefits if they obtain competitive integrated employment.

4

During WIBC, youth with disabilities and their families learn about work incentives, such as the Student Earned Income Exclusion, that allow individuals to work while retaining their benefits.

2

Work Incentives Benefits Counseling (WIBC) helps SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients understand how employment affects their benefits, empowering them to make informed career decisions.

5

Participants in the WIBC program have higher employment rates (34%-58.9%) compared to non-participants (13%-43.9%) and tend to earn higher wages.

3

WIBC is offered through the state-federal vocational rehabilitation (VR) program.

6

Transition educators can help students and families by connecting them with VR benefits counselors and incorporating WIBC into transition planning.

*This fact sheet was developed by the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign through a contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. Information presented may not reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.*

