

IMPAIRMENT RELATED WORK EXPENSES (IRWE) for SSDI

2018 FACTSHEET

What are Impairment Related Work Expenses?

When you pay extra expenses to support your work efforts because of your impairment, an IRWE might be a work incentive available to you. Social Security may be able to deduct those expenses from your gross monthly earnings when they determine if your earnings are at the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level. In 2018, the SGA level is \$1,180. For beneficiaries whose primary disability is blindness, the SGA level in 2018 is \$1,970. IRWE is applied once you have completed the Trial Work Period, if you qualify.

Examples of services or items that could qualify as impairment related work expenses are transportation costs, attendant care services, service animals, medications, medical devices or services, and assistive technologies.

How do I know if my work related expenses can be deducted? When do I qualify for deductions?

Work expenses may be deducted from your gross monthly income for purposes of calculating your SGA level when:

- (1) You need the items or services because of a physical or mental impairment,
- (2) The items or services help you to be able to work,
- (3) You pay the cost of the items or services and are not reimbursed, and
- (4) The cost amount is reasonable and standard in the community.
- (5) The cost was paid within a month in which you worked.

All costs must be documented and submitted to the Social Security Administration with an explanation of how the expense(s) meet(s) the above criteria.

For more information about the exact types of goods and services you will be able to deduct as IRWE, or for any questions regarding returning to work, please contact the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) WIPA coordinator at 877-890-5082.

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