

EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY

2018 FACTSHEET

“What is an Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)?”

The Extended Period of Eligibility is a 36-month period of protection of your Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. It begins the month after your Trial Work Period (TWP) ends, and continues for the next 36 months - whether you are working, or not.

It is important to track your earnings and report them to the Social Security Administration (SSA) as they will calculate whether your gross earnings (earnings before taxes) are above the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA).

- For 2018, the monthly SGA amount is \$1,180.
- For individuals whose disability on record with the SSA record is blindness, the monthly SGA amount is \$1,970.00.

During the 36-month EPE timeline, there are other work incentives you can use in order to reduce your earnings as totaled by the SSA. These work incentives include Impairment-Related Work Expenses or Subsidies.

You will be entitled to your SSDI check when your gross earnings are under the Substantial Gainful Activity level, which is \$1,180 per month in 2018, as long as you continue to have a disabling impairment. The SGA level is \$1,970 for individuals, who are blind. (***See Substantial Gainful Activity Factsheet for more details***).

SSA evaluates work activity earnings and work incentives to determine eligibility for benefits. It is important to remember: if you are unable to continue working, or your earnings are reduced to be under the SGA due to your disability, your benefit check can be restarted when you notify SSA of the change to your earnings.

If you consistently earn over the Substantial Gainful Activity level after the 36-month period, then your SSDI eligibility will end.

If your earnings fall below the SGA level while you are still in your EPE, then your benefits will restart without having to apply again.

However, if you are unable to continue working over the SGA level for any reason within 5 years of the termination of benefits, then you might be eligible for Expedited Reinstatement while the SSA investigates your claim.

Should you have additional questions, please contact the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center (NDALC) WIPA coordinator at 877-890-5082.

This document is funded through a Social Security Administration cooperative agreement and was developed and printed at U.S. taxpayer expense. Although Social Security reviewed this document for accuracy, it does not constitute an official Social Security communication.