**Student Earned Income Exclusion**

The **Student Earned Income Exclusion** **(SEIE)** helps working students who receive SSI and earn income while attending school. Through the Student Earned Income Exclusion, the Social Security Administration (SSA) allows students to keep more of their SSI check, continue taking classes, and thereby improve their employment outcomes.

If you are receiving SSI benefits, are under the age 22, and are regularly attending school, the SSA will not count up to $1,790 of earned income (wages) per month while you are attending school and working. The maximum yearly exclusion is $7,200 in 2017.

SSA’s definition of “regularly attending school” is: You take one or more courses of study and attend classes:

* In college or university for at least 8 hours a week: or
* In grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours a week; or
* In training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice), or
* For less time indicated above for reasons beyond the student’s control, such as illness.

Note: If you are home schooled because of a disability, you may be considered “regularly attending school” by:

* Studying a course or courses given by a school (grades 7-12), college, university or government agency; or
* Having a home visitor or tutor who directs the study.

**How It Works**

1. If you receive SSI and you start working, you must report your earnings to Social Security.
2. If you meet the qualifications described above, provide the SSA claims representative with documentation of your school schedule and work activity (check stubs).
3. When eligible, you can earn up to $1,790 in a month and your SSI benefits will not be reduced. Once your earnings reach $7,200 for the year; part of any additional earnings will affect your SSI benefits.
4. SSA also uses a countable income formula in calculating SSI checks.

A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand the Student Earned Income Exclusion and the Countable Income Formula that SSA uses to calculate your new SSI payment.