



COLORADO OFFICE OF
EMPLOYMENT FIRST
— Work Elevated —

“Benefits Counseling: Navigating the Possibility of Work”

Resource Links:

Presenter: **Melanie Honsbruch, CPWIC**
Colorado Office of Employment First (COEF)
Curriculum Developer / Trainer
Benefits Counseling
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A Benefits Counseling Guide for Colorado: Learn what is benefits counseling and how to find a certified benefits counselor in Colorado

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xuK419UDmnFOzo47dAFzA6Q1vofcY3aZ/view?pli=1>

Social Security Red Book: Social Security publication discussing the work support programs (work incentives) available to individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

<https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/>

Colorado Medicaid Buy-In Program: Eligibility, Income chart and premium guide
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Income%20Chart%20and%20Premium%20Guide%20for%20Buy-In%20for%20Working%20Adults%20with%20Disabilities-August%202020.pdf>

Medicaid Buy-In Flyer:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Health%20First%20Colorado%20Buy-In%20Program%20for%20Working%20Adults%20with%20Disabilities%20Brochure-January%202019.pdf>



Medicaid Waivers in Colorado:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/long-term-services-and-supports-programs>

HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) Waivers with Access to the Medicaid Buy-In:

EBD – Elderly, Blind, and Disabled
BI – Brain Injury
CMHS – Community Mental Health Supports
SCI – Spinal Cord Injury
SLS – Supported Living Services

ABLE Accounts (Achieving a Better Life Experience)

Three State Comparison Tool: <https://www.ablenrc.org/compare-states/>

ABLE Success Stories: <https://www.ablenrc.org/able-ambassadors/2020/>

Colorado ABLE Account Guidelines: <https://www.ablenrc.org/state-review/colorado/>

DVR and Benefits Counseling Main Contact:

Anne Christensen, CPWIC
Benefits Counseling Program Coordinator
Anne.christensen@state.co.us

Interested in obtaining a Benefits Counseling Certification:

CPWIC Certification (Community Partner Work Incentive Counselor)
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
National Training and Data Center
<https://vcu-ntdc.org/training/initial/initial.cfm>

WIP Credential (Work Incentive Practitioner)
Cornell University
K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability
<https://www.ytionline.org/courses>



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If you have additional questions regarding benefits counseling certification, please contact:

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DB101 (Disability Benefits 101)

www.db101.org – nine states have DB101, Michigan will be the closest design to the final Colorado product.

Schedule a DB101 Kickoff or Informational Presentation for your organization or group of organizations:

DB101 Lead Contact:
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Get involved with the Colorado Office of Employment First:



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