



Your Bridge to Support

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Disability Benefit Specialists Program

The Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) program provides services to people ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and/or substance use disorders. There are five DBS staff serving the county.

Disability Benefit Specialist may...

- Provide accurate information on public and private benefits and programs
- Help to determine which benefits and programs consumers may be entitled to
- Help consumers fill out applications for benefits, programs and services;
- Help consumers navigate choices and the programs or services to best meet their needs
- Provide assistance in obtaining or retaining benefits and services
- Provide referrals, assistance and support on other matters including disability rights

Top Benefits DBS Helps With

Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)

- Initial applications, Appeals, Overpayments
- Continuing Disability Reviews (all stages), Disabled Widows Benefits, Childhood Disability Benefits (previously known as DAC)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Initial applications, Appeals, Overpayments
- Continuing Disability Reviews (all stages), Age 18 Redeterminations (Appeals Only)

Medicare

- Part A, B, C and D
 - Applications; denial of coverage; plan comparisons (C&D only)

Medicaid (Medical Assistance) programs

- EBD (Medicaid Deductible, MAPP), BadgerCare, Medicare Savings Programs (QMB, SLMB/+)
 - Compare options; applications; denial of coverage

Disability Benefit Specialist Program Statistics

January 1, 2024-October 29, 2024*

Number of Referrals	280
Number of Cases	388
Number of Unduplicated Clients**	159
Total Hours Spent on Legal/Benefits Assistance	2,344
Total Hours Number of General Information/Referral	80
Monetary Impact	\$1,888,089

* DBS client database transition from WellSky to PeerPlace November 1, 2024. New data is not yet available

** *The number of unduplicated clients is a tally of all clients who had one or more contacts related to a case during the reporting period.*

DBS Program Top Consumer Issues

- Reaching the Social Security Administration Offices (Field Office and Disability Determination Bureau)
- Timeframe for disability and overpayment decisions
- Complex benefit issues
- Issues with data exchanges

Questions?