

As many of you have heard Wisconsin is part of the BOND initiative being piloted by Social Security. This pilot runs through 2017. However, enrollment into the pilot is done, so there will be no new consumers entering into this program but we will be dealing with this program for some time. Many of you may have been contacted by individuals stating they are EWICS working with your consumers. I would ask that you work closing with these EWICS. To help this process I am being copied in on all emails that EWICS are sending to DVR counselors and having monthly phone calls with them to work through any bumps we may encounter. They will send you a release of information allowing you to talk to them and if you are uncomfortable with using their ROI then I would ask that you get a DVR ROI ASAP. Working with the EWICS can be very beneficial in helping the consumer return to work.

To help with this process it is important to understand the basics of this pilot as many of our consumers are involved in this program and can benefit from this program. This program has several different test groups to it and depending on which test group the consumer falls into the consumer may qualify for additional services from BOND, free of cost. These services can include a benefit analysis, assessment, futures planning, and ongoing case management to help with maintaining their employment.

To help you understand the groups better I have provided this list

#### T22 – Offset benefit and enhanced work incentive counseling services (EWIC)

- This group will have a EWIC that will contact you to coordinate services and would be more than happy to come to initial appointments, IPE, etc to provide you with any information they have and to learn how they (EWICS) can better support the consumers.
- This group gets FREE Enhanced work incentives counseling services include in-depth benefit analysis and report services including additional assessments (CareerScope and OASYS assessment tools) and case management services to assist consumers in developing and achieving long-term employment goals.
- This group SHOULD already be working with their EWICS and have had an enhanced work incentives counseling service done. Working with the EWICS will allow you the chance to receive a copy of this report!
- Working as a team with the EWIC will help the counselor and create better outcomes. EWICS can help the consumer do the leg work needed and help the consumer to follow up on things as the EWICS will be in contact and meet with the consumer more frequently.
- We can accept the EWICS release of information.

#### T1 & T21 – Offset benefit and free work incentive counseling

- This group receives FREE work incentives counseling including an in-depth benefit analysis and report.
- This is the group that about 50% tends to not know they are enrolled in the BOND program. To determine if the individual is enrolled in BOND program they need to call the BOND call center at 1-877-726-6309. If they are in one of these groups then they need to work with a benefit specialist trained in BOND. The agencies in WI that are trained to work with individuals in BOND are ERI, SVRI, and CEO.
- This group DOES NOT get the more intense services like the T22 group does.

CI & C2 – Control group only (no additional benefits available)

- This is a control group and does not receive any special services. Treat this group as you would all other consumers that are getting SSI or SSDI.

To learn more information on the BOND program I would encourage you go to the following link on the DVR Social Security Page.

[http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf\\_files/bond\\_info.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf_files/bond_info.pdf)

Also I have included a form that your consumer could complete as homework or with you to determine what group they fall into.

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