



The Wisconsin Disability Benefits Network (WDBN) is a professional network for benefits specialists and also makes disability benefits information widely available to a broad range of audiences.

Employment Resources, Inc. (ERI) acts as the WDBN Contract Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). As the contract manager, ERI is responsible for training professional benefits specialists; providing resources; overseeing and performing outreach and education to partner agencies.

For a person on public benefits considering work, one of the most pervasive fears is the potential loss of cash payments, health care coverage, or needed in-home assistance. For those already working there are numerous public benefits rules and incentives in place to encourage employment; however, they are unconnected, confusing, and always changing. A Work Incentives Benefits Specialist (WIBS) connects job seekers with disabilities with information about employment and benefits.

► **More information about WIBS on the reverse side.**

The WDBN Exists to:

► ***Train and maintain Work Incentives Benefits Specialists (WIBS)***

- Intensive initial training
- Close mentoring and work reviews for initial year of practice
- Ongoing technical assistance and support
- Quarterly education and networking events
- Seminars and workshops
- On-line technical resources and current news

► ***Train Disability Benefits Specialists (DBS) in partnership with Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)***

- Intensive initial training
- Seminars and workshops
- Networking events
- Quality assurance initiatives

► ***Educate consumers, social service professionals, and public regarding public benefit programs, work incentives and the relationship of employment on public benefits.***

- Conference participation including displays and exhibits
- Agency In-service training
- Seminars and workshops
- Web resources and newsletter

► ***Provide quality assurance standards. Initiatives include:***

- Development of standards of practice that will offer a level of protection for consumers; professional recognition for practitioners; and quality assurance for purchasers and employers.
- Wisconsin Benefits Specialist Quality Assurance Task Force toward a professional credential
- WIBS Registry who maintain a prescribed level of training, adopt a code of conduct, and participate in a peer review process



For more information:

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