

The Resource Partnership

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP OFFERS BENEFITS PLANNING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS

Natick, Massachusetts, December 5, 2001 – The Resource Partnership offers benefits assistance and planning to SSI and SSDI beneficiaries, family members and professionals.

This service made possible through a five-year grant from the Social Security Administration to provide outreach, educational services, and benefits assistance to individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts. The new program called BenePLAN operates out of two regional offices.

Teri O’Shea, at CareerPoint, a one-stop career center in Holyoke, MA, serves Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties. For an appointment or question, Teri can be reached at 1.888.421.8919, ext. 120 or 1.413.532.4900, ext. 120, through fax at 1.413.532.0293 or via email at Teri@resourcepartnership.org.

Brian Forsythe, at the Resource Partnership in Natick, MA, serves Middlesex (excluding Somerville), and Worcester Counties. For an appointment or question, Brian can be reached at 1.877.YES.WORK, ext. 14, through fax at 1.508.647.9622 or via email at Brian@resourcepartnership.org.

Benefits Specialists have been trained by Cornell University and assist SSI and SSDI beneficiaries, family members, and professionals by providing information on areas such as Medicaid and Medicare, SSI and SSDI, Transitional Assistance, Public Housing, and Workers’ Compensation. BenePLAN provides for personalized benefits planning and assistance; the evaluation of work and its effects on benefits, ongoing assistance on issues concerning benefits, and information and referral on education, training and rehabilitation services.

“BenePLAN is the piece of the job placement puzzle that seemed to be missing, and it is critical to assisting people with disabilities in their vocational planning,” said Brian Forsythe, Benefits Specialist, Resource Partnership.

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“Often when people with disabilities consider going to work their first thought is ‘I can’t afford to lose my benefits’. With BenePLAN, people see how they can manage their benefits and that they truly can ‘afford to work’,” said Teresa O’Shea, Benefits Specialist, Resource Partnership.

The Resource Partnership was established in 1978 as a statewide employer-managed membership organization dedicated to advancing the career potential of individuals with disabilities. Services provided to candidates with disabilities include the assessment of transferable and marketable skills, resume and reference development, interview and job seeking skills training, arrangement for informational interviews, provision of up-to-date labor market and job information, and direct referral to employers. For more information about BenePLAN or the Resource Partnership, please visit www.resourcepartnership.org or call toll-free 1.877.YES.WORK.

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