**1619(b) Continued Medicaid Eligibility (SSI)**

One of the biggest concerns SSI beneficiaries have about going to work is the possibility of losing [Medicaid](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/medicaid.htm) coverage. Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act provides some protection for these beneficiaries. To qualify for continuing Medicaid coverage, a person must:

* Have been eligible for an SSI cash payment for at least 1 month;
* Still meet the disability requirement; and
* Still meet all other non-disability SSI requirements; and
* Need Medicaid benefits to continue to work; and
* Have gross earnings that are insufficient to replace SSI, Medicaid and publicly funded attendant care services.

This means that SSI beneficiaries who have earnings too high for a SSI cash payment may be eligible for Medicaid if they meet the above requirements. SSA uses a threshold amount to measure whether a person’s earnings are high enough to replace his/her SSI and Medicaid benefits. This threshold is based on the:

* amount of earnings which would cause SSI cash payments to stop in the person’s State; and
* average Medicaid expenses in that State.
* Currently $34,821 in Texas

**When your SSI payment gets close to 0 (zero) because of earnings, you need to write a letter to SSA and state:**

1. **I’m on SSI and currently working.**
2. **My earnings are reaching the threshold and my SSI payments are close to 0 (zero).**
3. **I need to keep my Medicaid because of medical need or service need.**
4. **My earnings are insufficient to replace SSI and Medicaid.**
5. **Please place me on 1619b.**

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**The Arc promotes & protects the human rights of people with intellectual & developmental disabilities & actively supports their full inclusion & participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.**