Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits (EXR)

2026 Fact Sheet on Work Incentives

What it is:

- If the Social Security Administration (SSA) closed your case because of work and earnings, and you are unable to work at a substantial gainful activity due to disability, SSA has a 60-month safety net available.
- Through Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits (EXR), the person files a shorter application to begin receiving cash benefits.

How it works:

You may request an Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits (EXR) within five years (60 months) after your benefits are terminated due to work activity. You will be eligible for six months of provisional benefits (including Medicare and Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage with a premium) while the SSA reviews the continuation of your original disability.

If the SSA determines your medical condition does not prevent you from working, the six months of provisional benefits will not be considered an overpayment. But remember, to qualify for this provision, you must have:

- Stopped receiving SSDI due to earnings from work
- Are no longer earning more than the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level (in 2026, $1,690 per month for people with disabilities or $2,830 per month for blind beneficiaries)
- Are currently unable to earn over SGA due to your disability
- Have the same disability as when you applied initially, and
- Request reinstatement within 60 months (5 years) from the month SSA terminated the previous benefits

After 24 months of payments, you may be eligible for a new Trial Work Period (TWP) and a new Extended Period of Eligibility if you begin working again and cannot earn above Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA).

In some circumstances, filing a new application for benefits may be more advantageous than applying for EXR. A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand more about the EXR provisions.

How to find more information and help:

Kentucky Disability Benefits 101
Ticket to Work Helpline
1-866-968-7842

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)
Center for Accessible Living
844-689-6620 (voice)
888-813-8652 (TTY)
wipa@calky.org

WIPA Goodwill Industries of Kentucky
866-336-3316 (voice)
866-833-2976 (TTY)
workincentives@goodwillky.org

This fact sheet has been prepared under the guidance of a certified Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor (CPWIC) through training authorized by the Social Security Administration. This is not a Social Security Administration document.