

We provide you with the knowledge, experience and encouragement to be assertive when faced with obstacles to your independent living goals.

All people should be able to make decisions affecting their own lives.

Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut, Inc

19 Ohio Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360

The Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut is a consumer- controlled 501 (c)(3) non-profit agency.



Community Partner Work Incentive Counselor



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*Dedicated to supporting YOUR rights.*

*Working to empower YOU to make choices.*

*Advocating for change that helps YOU become included in your community.*

## What is DNEC?

DNEC is a nonprofit agency serving persons of all ages and all disability types who reside in eastern Connecticut. DNEC utilizes peer mentoring, self-advocacy and independent living skills training to assist individuals with disabilities to reenter or remain in the community and to make meaningful life choices.

**Myth:** *If I go to work, my disability cash benefits will automatically stop.*

**Fact:** *If you go to work, there are many safety nets that allow you to return to work without worrying about your cash benefits.*

## Who is eligible for a Community Partner Work Incentive Counselor?

Anyone that has a disability and who has a question about how working

may affect their benefits.

To receive benefits counseling services you must be working with DNEC on Vocational goals.

## What is a Community Partner Work Incentive Counselor?

A CWIC provides work incentives, planning, and benefits counseling to persons with disabilities. This can include exploring eligibility for participation in federal and state employment support programs.

**Myth:** *If I go to work, my health benefits will stop.*

**Fact:** *After you return to work, your Medicaid coverage may continue, even if your earnings (alone or in combination with your other income) become too high for an SSI cash payment.*

## What can Benefits Counseling do for you?

DNEC will discuss your Social Security Disability (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other state and federal benefits.

DNEC will sit down with you and review your career goals and how your benefits may or may not be affected.

DNEC will assist you to design an individualized Independent Living Plan to achieve your financial and vocational goals.

DNEC guidance will assist you to plan a financial future through personal and family budgets, managing a checkbook, and obtaining knowledge of available direct and indirect resources related to income, housing, food, medical and/or other benefits.

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