



# Benefits Counselor

**A benefits counselor is someone who works with individuals who have a documented disability by reviewing existing information regarding financial assets, providing information about benefits for which someone may be eligible, or explaining changes in existing benefits. The term benefits counselor can be applied to either a certified staff person or a trained volunteer, who works with the certified staff person.**

## Benefits Counselors Can Provide Information Regarding:

- Insurance benefits
- [Social Security](#) benefits
- [Social Security Disability](#) benefits
- [Medicare](#), including the prescription benefit section (Part D)
- Prescription assistance programs (for individuals not eligible for Medicare)
- Income tax benefits and credits
- Retirement benefits
- Veterans benefits
- Community-based benefits
- State program benefits, including home care alternatives
- Advocacy with agencies, if needed
- Referrals to community based organizations or government agencies

## Where to Find a Benefits Counselor:

- [Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- [Office of Vocational Rehabilitation](#)
- [APRISE](#)
- [Veterans Affairs Offices](#)
- [County Assistance Office](#)
- Local human service agencies
- Community-based organizations that serve the elderly and/or disabled
- Local community legal services office

*This information sheet was developed by the Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative (ASERT).*

*For more information, please contact ASERT at 877-231-4244 or [info@PAautism.org](mailto:info@PAautism.org)*

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