

Benefits Specialists

What are Elder and Disability Benefit Specialists?

The ADRC of Monroe County has two benefit specialists who are integral members of the ADRC team of professionals that assist Monroe County residents. They can help you cut through the "red tape" of confusing policies. They help people figure out what benefits they are entitled to and help them to apply. They are available to meet with you in the ADRC office or a setting convenient to you. They can provide accurate and current information on private and government benefits and programs. They receive ongoing training to remain current on any changes in public policy.

The Disability Benefit Specialist provides confidential assistance at no charge to adults ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders.

The Elder Benefit Specialist provides confidential assistance at no charge to those over age 60.

Typical areas that the Elder Benefit Specialist and Disability Benefit Specialist can assist with:

- Any general benefit appeals or denials, loss or reduction of benefit
- Applications for SSDI age 18-59 DBS / 60+ EBS
- Appeals regarding denial of Social Security Disability
 - DBS upon local review
 - EBS only with attorney approval
- Foodshare
- Health Insurance Appeals & denials
- Housing issues –and Utility issues (assistance with eviction concerns)
- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- Medical billing issues (private/Medicare/Medical Assistance)
- Medicare
- Medicare Savings Plans
- Pharmacy or drug coverage issues
 - Prioritized if consumer needs medication immediately
- Spousal impoverishment issues
- SSA overpayments & notices
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Referrals to other services and programs
- Public Education, including groups presentations newsletter and newspaper articles

If your concern is not listed, call us to see if we can help or connect you with a program that can.

The goals of the program are:

- To provide current, accurate information about public and private benefit programs.
- To counsel individuals about eligibility for various programs and benefits.
- To help people apply for benefits or appeal a denial of benefits.

Where can I find a Disability Benefit Specialist?

The Benefit Specialists are conveniently located at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County. For more information or to talk to a benefit specialist, call 608-269-8690 or 888-339-7854.