

FAQs

What is Self-Employment?

As you probably already know, self-employment refers to people who work for themselves rather than for an employer for wages. People sell or produce a product, service, or both. The goal is to increase personal income. It can be full or part-time.

Who can be Self-Employed?

Anyone who has the motivation can own a small business. If a person likes to work independently and has researched their business options well, self-employment could be a good fit. For a person with complex challenges, operating a small business is entirely feasible with the proper support, adequate financing, and a talent to market.

On the other hand, self-employment is not for everyone. Not everyone has the drive to turn a talent into a job. Some may not like the isolation of being self-employed over being part of a company or team of people working together. In general, weighing the pros and cons is an important step in deciding to be self-employed.

Why is Self-Employment an appealing option?

Some of the benefits self-employed individuals with disabilities enjoy include:

- independence and the opportunity to make their own business decisions;
- the ability to set their own pace, schedule and work around disability limitations;
- reduction of transportation problems when a business is home-based;
- employment that matches skills and interests when not available in the local labor market; and
- availability of Social Security incentives for growing their business.

More on Self-employment

Could self-employment be a good career choice for you? Here are a few questions you should ask to determine whether self-employment is a good fit:

- ▶ Do you have a passion, skill or interest that others may want?
- ▶ Can you work on your own and get things done?
- ▶ Do you want to be your own boss?
- ▶ Would you benefit from flexible work hours and reduced transportation needs?
- ▶ Will you need support in running your own business?

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The Paths to Employment Resource Center (PERC) is a partnership that provides training and technical assistance to promote employment and full community participation for people with disabilities through cutting edge technologies, evidence based practice and research.

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Frequently Asked Questions Self-Employment

How do you plan for Self-Employment?

In general, self-employment usually consists of a single individual directing, organizing, and operating a business. Five main steps to planning for self-employment include:

- analyzing the market,
- developing a business plan,
- identifying supports securing resources, and
- implementing the business plan.

For people with greater challenges an option called supported self-employment, also called customized self-employment, may be a better option.

In supported self-employment, assistance could be provided in all aspects of owning and running a business as well as help with disability-related challenges and barriers.

Like any small business, supported self-employment is formed around the person's interests and developed based on the cultivation of a product or service. The person's career aspirations, motivations and talents are used to create a niche market and make the small business work!

Where can I find information on Self-Employment?

A number of resources exist to help individuals explore the many options for starting a business. Visit the PERC Website to find more resources on self-employment.

Visit www.percthinkwork.org and search!

PERC Related Materials

Materials related to this topic can be found on the PERC website - these materials include free trainings, resources, and the latest research.

www.percthinkwork.org

Comments? Suggestions?

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