

WISER Releases *Benefit U* Report

Portable Benefit Solutions: Financial, Health & Retirement

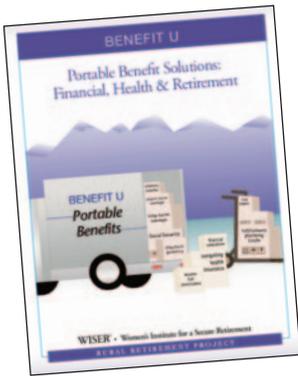
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Just Released: *Benefit U – Portable Benefit Solutions: Financial Health & Retirement*, a WISER report on their project aimed at improving access to portable benefits for independent workers. By examining the barriers faced by independent workers — accessing financial, health and retirement benefits — the report offers insights into helping this growing workforce sector establish long-term financial security.



Benefit U project was launched with entrepreneurs, independent workers, freelancers and small business owners in West Virginia to help them achieve financial security by interviewing independent workers to learn more about their unique financial challenges and what products and services would meet their needs. In addition, the project tested a financial technology (fintech) platform that provided many of these resources in order to gauge the feasibility of meeting those needs with an online tool.

Some key findings about the workers interviewed were that they:

- Worry that benefits might be unaffordable.
- Are eager for information and tools to help them make sense of Social Security and tax reporting,
- Want opportunities to build savings for the short and long term.

The **Benefit U Project** is a collaboration between the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER®), WISER's **Rural Retirement Project**, and the **Appalachian Regional Commission** supported with a grant from the **POWER Initiative**.

[Download the report](#) Learn more about the Benefit U program at wiserwomen.org/projects-programs

"Independent workers need an underlying foundation of financial support and insurance to absorb financial shocks...When access to financial education, savings vehicles and affordable insurance products are available regardless of place or type of employment, it can strengthen the independent workforce overall."

— Cindy Hounsell, WISER President



The Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) is dedicated to improving the long-term financial security of all women through education and advocacy.

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