

Overhead Expense (OE) Summary

Why Self Employed Financial Advisors Need Overhead Expense Insurance Coverage

OE insurance is a disability policy that pays the **fixed overhead** of the insured's business during periods of disability. The first question that needs to be answered is **do you need it?**

Whether your compensation is derived from fee based planning, fee based money management, commissioned insurance products, commissioned investment products, or some combination of these compensation methods, your income will not stop when you become disabled. Licensed staff can service established accounts, generating ongoing fee based income. Many commissioned insurance products and annuities have renewal streams that are vested and continue for the life of the policy. Therefore, many financial advisors think they do not need OE insurance coverage because their renewals and ongoing fees will always be enough to cover office overhead, even during periods of total disability. Consider the following:

- Fee based planning advice only generates income **if you are there** to design the plans, meet with, and advise your clients.
- Fee based money management only continues to generate income if the client allows you to continue managing his/her money. **If you are not there** to talk them through market volatility or lower than expected returns, they will **move their money to another money manager**.
- Some Variable Life and annuity products **do not have vested renewals**. So, if your client enlisted the services of another advisor, the advisor can collect the renewals.
- First year commissions are only generated **if you are there** to create them. Even if they are levelized, the amount you collect each month goes down if you are not there to generate new business. Licensed staff may be able to write add-on business on existing accounts, but cannot bring in new accounts. If they could, they would not be staff, they would be advisors.

The result of these issues is that during periods of total disability your gross revenues are reduced, which **hits your bottom line profit first**. Hypothetical example:

If you gross \$20,000 per month, have \$10,000 of monthly expenses, and net \$10,000, a \$10,000 drop in gross revenues does not reduce your overhead ... it **reduces your profit to \$0** that month (\$10,000 revenue - \$10,000 expenses = \$0 profit).

So, how does OE insurance help?

OE insurance reimburses you for expenses you incur while totally disabled. **This allows you to take revenue out as profit that would otherwise be used for paying overhead**. If you had \$5,000 of OE insurance in the example above, you could use the OE insurance to pay overhead and pass an additional \$5,000 of revenue through to yourself as income. If you also carry \$5,000 of Principal Disability Income Insurance, **your net income would still be \$10,000**, even though your gross revenue was reduced by \$10,000 per month.

Overhead Expense coverage has a short benefit period (12 months under the MGI offer). So, this is not a long term solution for income replacement while totally disabled. However, if you are permanently totally disabled, it does allow you to continue to replace 100% of your income, up to 12 months, while you or your trustee negotiates the sale of your practice.

Overhead Expense (OE) Summary

Do you need OE if you are partially disabled?

This is a very good question. In large part, it depends on how long you've been in business and how your practice is structured.

- If you are working part-time you probably won't lose a lot of clients. Therefore, your reoccurring fee based income and renewals will continue to flow into the business and may be in excess of your fixed expenses.
- Even if your new business fees/commissions are significantly reduced, what new business you bring in plus the revenues from your renewals and reoccurring fee based income may be in excess of your fixed expenses.
- If you have professional staff and/or partners that continue to cover your duties while you are out of the office (which is manageable if you are working part-time), your gross revenues may drop a very small amount.
- Even if your practice is primarily first year commission driven, meaning you haven't been in the business long enough to establish a solid base of renewal or fee income, if your production is reduced by 50% you will generally have enough income flow to pay your overhead.

Since Residual benefits are calculated by subtracting covered (fixed) expenses from gross revenues, if your practice looks like any of the examples above, it's unlikely your gross revenues would drop below fixed expenses, if you were working part-time. In this scenario, the Residual rider would NOT pay benefits.

If your practice looks like the examples described above, then buying the Residual benefit does NOT seem necessary. However, **buying an OE policy that pays benefits for total disability makes a great deal of sense.**

Taxation of OE premiums and benefits

Premiums for OE insurance are **deductible as a business expense**, whether you file your income taxes as a sole proprietor, partnership, Sub Chapter S Corporation, or C Corporation.

Benefits from OE insurance are taxable as income. However, if the benefits are used to pay deductible business expenses, income tax is NOT payable on the benefits.

The OE program includes:

1. A 20% premium discount compared to buying a policy on yourself.
2. The definition of total disability is "Your-Own Occupation to age 65." If you are deemed totally disabled from your occupation, it is your choice, not the insurance company's, to work in another occupation.
3. Elimination (waiting) periods of 60 or 90 days
4. Benefit Period of 12, 18*, or 24* months
5. Premiums and benefits are guaranteed not to change until age 65 (even if you leave the Broker Dealer)

Overhead Expense (OE) Summary

6. Coverage may be available on a **Modified Guaranteed Issue (MGI) basis** (no paramed exams or blood tests, depending on age and the amount of coverage for which you apply, and a short form app with very limited medical questions). **For more details of the MGI Program**, please read the article "[What is Modified Guaranteed Issue?](#)"

For a personalized premium quote and a complete summary of the program offering (including policy definitions, details of the MGI qualification requirements and underwriting rules) click [Request a Quote for Myself](#) or call Disability Specialists, Inc. (DSI) at (888) 279-8348 (7:00 am – 4:00 pm Mountain Time).

*Benefit Periods of 18 and 24 months require full medical underwriting