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Understanding Ticket to Work: How to Help Your Clients and the People You Serve

Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Time: 3 – 4:30 PM ET



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- Real-time captioning is provided during this webinar
- The captions can be found in the **Captioning pod**, which appears below the slides
- You can also access captioning online: http://bit.ly/captions-aug2021



American Sign Language (ASL)

- If you're fluent in ASL and would like support during today's webinar, follow the link below that provides instructions to connect with an interpreter through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Video Relay Service (VRS)
- ASL User Guide: <u>http://bit.ly/ASL-guide</u>





Questions and Answers (Q&A)

- For Q&A: Please use the Q&A pod to submit any questions you have during the webinar, and we will direct the questions accordingly during the Q&A portion
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Webinar Online Resources

- Please use the Web Links pod to find the resources presented during today's webinar
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Web Links 3	=-	
Accessible Presentation - PDF		
Ticket to Work		
Closed Captioning		
Resources		
Ticket to Work Survey		
Browse To https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/how-it-works/index.html		



Archived Events

Please note: This webinar is being recorded, and the archive will be available within 2 weeks on the Choose Work website at http://bit.ly/WISE_OnDemand.



- June 2020: Ticket to Work and Mental Health
- May 2020: Working from Home with Ticket to Work



Technical Assistance

If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the **Q&A pod** to send a message, or you may email **webinars@choosework.ssa.gov**.





Presenters

Welcome and Introductions

Moderator: Jackie Flick, WISE Moderator

Presenter: Raymond A. Cebula, III, J.D., Cornell University Jayme Pendergraft, Ticket Program Manager



Welcome!

Thank you for joining us!

Today, we'll present information about:

- Social Security's Ticket Program and other Work Incentives
- Ticket Program Service Providers
- How to share information about the Ticket Program
- How to become a Ticket Program Service Provider







Social Security Disability Benefit Programs





Understanding Ticket to Work: How to Help Your Clients and the People You Serve

What Is the Ticket to Work Program? (Slide 1 of 3)

The Ticket to Work Program

- Is a free and voluntary Social Security program
- Offers **career development** for people ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits and want to work





Understanding Ticket to Work: How to Help Your Clients and the People You Serve

What Is the Ticket to Work Program? (Slide 2 of 3)

The Ticket to Work Program connects Social Security disability beneficiaries with **free employment services** to help them:

- Decide if working is right for them
- Prepare for work
- Find a job
- Succeed at work





What Is the Ticket to Work Program? (Slide 3 of 3)

We encourage you to share our newest fact sheet with people who might be interested in the Ticket Program.

"What is Social Security's Ticket to Work Program?" https://bit.ly/ttw-program





Understanding Ticket to Work: How to Help Your Clients and the People You Serve

Ticket to Work Help Line

The Ticket to Work Program provides a Help Line that can verify eligibility, explain how the program works and answer questions.

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm ET

- 1-866-968-7842
- 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)







Social Security Work Incentives

Offering more than 20 Work Incentives, Social Security makes it easier for disability beneficiaries to work and still be eligible to receive Social Security benefits, including medical benefits as they explore and transition to work.

To learn more about Work Incentives:

- Choose Work's website: <u>https://bit.ly/work-incentives</u>
- Social Security's Red Book: <u>http://www.ssa.gov/redbook</u>
- Choose Work Blog: <u>http://bit.ly/choosework-blog</u>





Work Incentives: Expedited Reinstatement (Slide 1 of 2)

Expedited Reinstatement (EXR) offers a fast track to benefits reinstatement if beneficiaries are no longer entitled to SSDI and SSI benefits due to work and earnings.

Beneficiaries may make the request **within 5 years** from the month that their benefits stopped due to work and earnings.

- While Social Security reviews a beneficiaries' reinstatement requests, beneficiaries are:
 - Eligible to receive temporary benefits for up to 6 months
 - Eligible for Medicare or Medicaid or both





Work Incentives: Expedited Reinstatement (Slide 2 of 2)

To qualify, in the month that beneficiaries file for EXR, beneficiaries must:

- Have been **previously eligible** for SSDI or SSI
- Be or become unable to work at a level that Social Security considers "substantial gainful activity" or SGA
 - This must be due to their medical condition
 - Their medical impairment is the same as before or is related to it





Work Incentives: Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE)

What is IRWE?

If a beneficiary has to pay out of pocket and is not reimbursed for certain items needed to work, Social Security subtracts the cost of certain impairment-related items and services from gross earnings when deciding if the work is substantial gainful activity (SGA).

Examples include:

- Medicine, medical devices and disposable items related to a disability
- Assistive technology: hearing aids, tablets (if used for communication at work)
- Service animals

Learn more about IRWE: https://bit.ly/ticket-irwe





Ticket to Work Service Providers

The Ticket Program provides beneficiaries access to a variety of **Ticket Program service providers**, including:

- Employment Networks (EN)
- Workforce ENs
- State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) organizations





Employment Network (EN)

An EN is a private or public organization that has an agreement with Social Security to provide **free employment support services** to people who are eligible for the Ticket Program.

 Many state public workforce systems, such as American Job Centers, are Workforce ENs





Supports and Services That May Be Provided

- Career planning or counseling
- Job search assistance
- Special programs for veterans and youth in transition
- Ongoing employment support
- Assistance with job accommodations
- Benefits and Work Incentives counseling









State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency

A State VR agency provides a wide variety of services to help people with disabilities return to work, enter new lines of work, or enter the workforce for the first time. A State VR agency can offer benefits counseling and may also be able to help beneficiaries with:

Vocational rehabilitation

VR

• Training and education

Some states have separate VR agencies that serve individuals who are blind and visually impaired.



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

WIPA projects are staffed by Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC) who:

- Provide free benefits counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries about how work and earnings will affect benefits including SSDI, SSI, Medicare or Medicaid, and other public benefits
- Work with beneficiaries who:
 - Are currently working or self-employed
 - Have a job offer pending
 - Are actively interviewing for jobs
 - Had an interview in the past 30 days or have a job interview scheduled in the next 2 weeks
 - Are age 14–25, even in the earliest stages of considering work





Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS organizations provide **free legal assistance** to Social Security disability beneficiaries who have disability-related employment issues.

- PABSS organizations and advocates provide:
 - Legal support
 - Advocacy



 Information to help beneficiaries resolve employment-related concerns with employers, Social Security, ENs, State VR agencies, WIPA projects, or others



Find a Service Provider

- The Find Help Tool on the Ticket Program website allows users to search for service providers <u>choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp</u>
- Provides a directory of all Ticket Program service providers, including:
 - State VR Agencies
 - Employment Networks (EN)

- EN PABSS WIPA VR
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Organizations



Choosing a Service Provider

If the people you serve are interested in connecting with a service provider, these resources can help them decide:

- Finding an EN <u>http://bit.ly/finding-an-EN</u>
- Choosing the Right EN <u>https://bit.ly/choosing-EN</u>





Questions?






The Choose Work Website



Visit **choosework.ssa.gov** to find:

- Blog posts
- Success stories
- Monthly webinars
- Fact sheets & tutorials



Share Information on Your Website

Do you have an employment section on your website?

Link to the Choose Work website from your site to direct eligible beneficiaries to information and resources.





Work Incentives Seminar Events (WISE)

- WISE webinars are monthly, **free** educational online sessions for beneficiaries, service providers, and community partners
- Share WISE webinar details with your social media or newsletter audience
- Attend the webinars to discover resources available for the people you serve
- Subscribe to get updates: http://bit.ly/WISEsubscribe





WISE Webinars On Demand

The WISE webinar archives offer access to information and resources on demand:

http://bit.ly/WISEOnDemand





Understanding Ticket to Work: How to Help Your Clients and the People You Serve

Choose Work! Blog

Weekly blog posts share information and advice about looking for work, Social Security Work Incentives, transitioning to work, and financial independence.

- Subscribe to receive new blog posts directly to your inbox: <u>http://bit.ly/SubscribeCW</u>
- Share blog posts with your email and social media audiences
- Volunteer to be a guest blogger by emailing: <u>socialmedia@choosework.ssa.gov</u>





Success Stories (Slide 1 of 2)

- Success Stories are stories about actual Social Security disability beneficiaries who have benefitted from participating in the Ticket Program
- Share on social media or in your newsletter



https://bit.ly/ticket-stories



Success Stories (Slide 2 of 2)

- If you've worked with a Social Security beneficiary who has achieved financial independence through work, submit the details of their story and how you helped them on their path
 - All success stories are reviewed and approved by Social Security. If selected, the Ticket to Work team will work with you to develop the story for publication.
 - Submit your stories at: stories@choosework.ssa.gov





Frequently Asked Questions and Fact Sheets

The Ticket Program website has a variety of resources to help beneficiaries learn about the Ticket Program and other Work Incentives, including:

- Benefits Counseling and the Path to Employment
- Presenting Your Best Self to Employers
- What is Ticket to Work?

choosework.ssa.gov/library/index.html







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https://www.youtube.com/choosework

https://www.linkedin.com/company/ticket-to-work



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More About Employment Networks (EN)

- An EN is an organization or group of organizations that provides, coordinates, and delivers employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other support services to assist Social Security disability beneficiaries to enter, maintain, and advance in employment
- ENs can be for-profit and non-profit organizations and service providers, state and local government agencies, or a group of providers working together as a single EN



Benefits of Becoming an EN

- The Ticket Program is an outcome-based program and can easily integrate into your existing business model
 - Payments are:
 - Based on a beneficiary achieving milestones and outcomes
 - Associated with work and earnings a beneficiary achieves after working with an EN
- The program helps beneficiaries reduce reliance on Social Security benefits and become financially independent through work
- An EN can use Ticket payment revenue at its discretion





Frequently Asked Questions: http://bit.ly/become-an-EN

Qualifications for becoming an EN: http://bit.ly/EN-qualifications

Download the Request for Application (RFA) at: https://www.ssa.gov/work/enrfa.html

Questions about becoming an EN: ENOperations@yourtickettowork.ssa.gov



Questions?





For More Information

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

- 1-866-968-7842
- 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)
- Visit: choosework.ssa.gov



Connect:

Visit <u>choosework.ssa.gov/contact/index.html</u> to find us on social media and subscribe to blog and email updates!





Opt-In to Receive Text Messages

- Get advice and encouragement, and read stories about people who achieved financial independence with help from the Ticket to Work Program.
- If you're interested in receiving text messages from the Ticket Program, please text **TICKET** to **474747**. Standard messaging rates may apply.



Join Us for Our Next WISE Webinar!

TICKET Work Incentive Seminar Event

Ticket to Work: Support on Your Journey to Employment Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 Time: 3 – 4:30 PM ET

Register online: choosework.ssa.gov/wise or call 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)



Tell Us What You Think!

Please remember to take our webinar survey!

A link will pop up after the webinar, or visit: choosework.ssa.gov/surveys/wise.



