



Gearing Up For Your Transitions

Ticket to Work

This information comes directly from the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work website: <http://chooseworkttw.net>

Social Security's Ticket to Work program supports career development for people with disabilities who want to work. **Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64 qualify.** The Ticket program is free and voluntary. The Ticket Program helps people with disabilities progress toward financial independence.

The Ticket program is a good fit for people who want to improve their earning potential and who are committed to preparing for long-term success in the workforce. Ticket to Work offers beneficiaries with disabilities access to meaningful employment with the assistance of Ticket to Work employment service providers. If you are ready to go to work, there are people ready and waiting to help you!

The career development services and support you need are unique to you. The Ticket program can connect you with the right mix of free employment support services and approved service providers that will best fit your needs.

The Ticket program and [Work Incentives](#) allow you to keep your benefits while you explore employment, receive vocational rehabilitation and gain work experience. Your cash benefits and Medicaid or Medicare often continue throughout your transition to work, and there are protections in place to help you return to benefits if you find you are unable to continue working due to your disability.

Why Ticket to Work?

If you receive disability benefits from Social Security, then you know that getting those benefits took time, energy and patience. In determining your eligibility for disability benefits, Social Security found that you could not earn enough money to support yourself. With the right opportunities and supports however, many people can earn a higher standard of living by going to work and leaving the benefit rolls.

Earning a living through employment is not something everyone can do but it may be right for you. Many find that the rewards far outweigh the risks. Take the time to learn about the employment services and supports Social Security offers to beneficiaries with disabilities through the Ticket to Work program...you may be surprised! We are here to help you learn more and start on your journey to financial independence.

About Work Incentives

Work Incentives make it easier for adults with disabilities to work and still receive health care and cash benefits from Social Security. Work Incentives allow you to remain in control of your finances and health care during your transition to work and financial independence.

Work Incentives That Go With the Ticket to Work Program

Work Incentives make it possible for you to explore work while still receiving health care and cash benefits; they are designed to help you succeed!

- You may keep your Medicaid/Medicare while you work.
- You have access to individualized support services.
- You can select part-time or work-from-home alternatives to help you reach your goal of financial independence.
- You can try work with confidence, knowing your benefits continue during your transition period.

The Ticket to Work program is just one of many Work Incentives available to you. When you assign your Ticket to an Employment Network, you are eligible for several Work Incentives:

Trial Work Period (TWP)
(SSDI recipients only)



The TWP allows you to test your ability to work for at least nine months. During your TWP, you will receive full SSDI benefits no matter how much you earn as long as your work activity is reported and you have a disabling impairment.

Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)
(SSDI and SSI recipients)



If your benefits stopped because of your earnings level, you can request to have your benefits reinstated without having to complete a new application. While Social Security determines your benefits reinstatement, you are eligible to receive temporary benefits for up to six months.

Protection from Medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR)
(SSDI and SSI recipients)



If you assign your Ticket to an approved service provider before you receive notice of a medical Continuing Disability Review (CDR), you will not have to undergo the medical review while you are participating in the Ticket to Work program and making progress within Social Security's timeframes.

One of the best ways to learn more about Work Incentives including the Ticket to Work program is to attend a free [Work Incentives Seminar Event \(WISE\) online webinar](#). The

Ticket to Work program hosts an accessible online event for you and your family to learn about Work Incentives, including Ticket to Work. You can join a webinar on the fourth Wednesday of each month. [Register](#) online or call **1-866-968-7842 (V)** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**.

Find out how Work Incentives apply to you:

Learn more by visiting <http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/workincentives.htm>, reading the [Social Security Red Book](#), the official guide to Work Incentives or call the Ticket to Work Help Line at **1-866-968-7842 (V)** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**, M - F 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST.

How It Works

You became eligible to participate in the Ticket to Work program when you started receiving SSDI or SSI benefits based on disability. Social Security no longer sends paper tickets in the mail, but don't worry-you don't need a paper Ticket to participate. Participation in the Ticket program is free and voluntary; if you decide to participate, you can contact any authorized employment service provider in your area to see if the services they offer are right for you. These providers, called Employment Networks (ENs), offer specialized services such as career counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and job placement and training. Feel free to talk with as many ENs as you would like to see what they have to offer! You may also receive services from your local vocational rehabilitation agency and then receive ongoing services from an EN.

Who Qualifies?

Everyone age 18 through 64 who receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of his or her disability is eligible to participate in the Ticket to Work program. Participation in the Ticket program is free and voluntary.

Social Security used to send paper tickets in the mail, but no longer does so. You don't need a paper Ticket to participate! Your eligibility will be verified by your service provider. You can also find out about your eligibility status by calling the Ticket to Work Help Line at **1-866-968-7842 (V)/ 866-833-2967 (TTY)**.

Who Can Help Me Go to Work?

You can get the help you need from two types of providers, an Employment Network (EN) or your state's Vocational Rehabilitation agency (VR).

An [Employment Network \(EN\)](#) is under contract with Social Security to provide free services to beneficiaries under the Ticket program. Some ENs provide services in local communities, across a state or in multiple states, and some national ENs serve beneficiaries over the Internet and by phone. If you and an EN agree to work together, you will jointly develop an Individual Work Plan (IWP) that is just for you. The plan defines your employment goals and describes the specialized services the EN will provide or obtain to help you meet your goals. All ENs provide career counseling, job placement, and ongoing support services. Some provide additional services, so think about what your needs are as you search for a provider that best meets them. The

Ticket to Work Help Line or the Find Help tool on this website can help you learn more about the ENs available to you.

You can also work with your [State Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) agency](#). If they agree to take you on as a client, they also will work with you to develop an individual plan that will help you get a job. VR agencies often provide more significant types of rehabilitation or training services compared to an EN. If you need ongoing support and services after the VR agency closes your case, you can also then work with an EN to continue your progress toward financial independence.

It is your choice what type of service provider you wish to work with. Feel free to talk with as many service providers as you would like, to learn what they have to offer!