

Ticket to Work

What is the Ticket to Work Program?

The Ticket to Work Program gives people with disabilities choices in obtaining employment services and resources to start and maintain work; to increase work earnings; and to be self-supporting when possible. Adults between the ages of 18 and 64 years old who are also receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits are eligible to use a "Ticket to Work" from the Social Security Administration.

The Ticket to Work Program connects beneficiaries with employment service providers (called "Employment Networks") to help achieve individual work goals. Under the Ticket Program, you can work full- or part-time as you explore your work options. The Ticket can be used to obtain the employment-related services and supports you need from either state or private Employment Networks.

Employment Networks specialize in assisting people to make the transition from benefits to work. Services may include:

- Vocational assessments and Training
- Job placement or Coaching
- Other assistance needed to prepare for, obtain or maintain employment.

Ticket to Work Helpline

Phone: 1-866-968-7842 or TTY 1-866-833-2967

Website: www.chooseworkttw.net/

Social Security Benefits and Work Incentives:

Every state has a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance project that the Social Security Administration uses to assist people who want to return to work. The Work Incentives Connection is the only such project in Minnesota. We give you up-to-date and accurate answers about how earnings affect your specific benefits. The Ticket to Work Helpline can refer you to the Connection, or you can call us directly.

Contact the WORK INCENTIVES CONNECTION to...

- Learn how your benefits are affected by work
- Find Employment Networks in your area
- Learn more about the Ticket program

WORK INCENTIVES CONNECTION

Phone: 651-632-5113 or 1-800-976-6728

Or MN Relay- 711

Social Security Reviews and the Ticket:

When your Ticket to Work is assigned to an Employment Network, and you are meeting your goals and timelines, Social Security will not do a medical Continuing Disability Review. However, the work rules for the SSDI and SSI programs do continue to apply to you, even when your Ticket is assigned.

What do I do with my Ticket to Work?

If you are interested in working or want to work more or to change jobs, you might benefit from using your Ticket to Work. Here are steps to take to explore your choices:

- Call the Ticket to Work Helpline or the Work Incentives Connection for a list of Employment Networks in your area.
- Contact the Employment Networks you are interested in. Since the Ticket program gives you a choice of where to get employment services, you may want to research the Employment Networks in your area to find the one that is right for you.

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Questions for Employment Networks:

1. Do you have experience serving people with my disability?
 2. Do you offer the special services I need?
 3. Are you located near where I live?
 4. What kind of experience do you have training and placing people with disabilities?
 5. Do you work with all available employers or just certain ones?
 6. Can you tell me about some of your successes?
 7. What will be expected of me?
- After doing your research, assign your Ticket to the Employment Network that best meets your needs. You will be asked to sign an agreement with the employment network or state vocational rehabilitation agency you chose.

- You and your Employment Network will create an Employment Plan with goals and timelines. Discuss your responsibilities for your plan with your Employment Network. While you are using the Ticket Program, your progress in achieving your goals will be reviewed every 12 months.

Can I Stop Using My Ticket?

The Ticket to Work Program is voluntary. In any situation where you believe you cannot keep working on your employment goals or if you no longer want to work with your Employment Network, you can stop using your Ticket, but you must contact the Ticket to Work Helpline about your situation.

- Write a letter to the Ticket to Work Helpline requesting that your use of your Ticket be suspended and explain why you are making this request. If you no longer want to work with your Employment Network, tell this to the Ticket to Work Helpline and ask that your Ticket be un-assigned. The address for the Ticket to Work is printed on the Employment Plan Supplement that your Employment Network will give you.
- Your protection from a medical Continuing Disability Review will end in three months if you do not re-assign your Ticket to another Employment Network.

**WORK INCENTIVES
CONNECTION**

a program of **GOODWILL·EASTER SEALS®**
MINNESOTA

**For more information, call the
Work Incentives Connection:
651-632-5113 or 1-800-976-6728**

www.mnworkincentives.com

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