

The logo features the text "Ticket to Work & Work Incentives" in a white serif font. The word "to" is written in a smaller, orange script font. The text is enclosed within a white and orange swoosh that forms an oval shape. The background of the slide is blue with a faint, large watermark of the Department of Homeland Security seal.

Ticket to Work & Work Incentives

Alternatives 2010

Tom Gloss, Ticket to Work Specialist

David Jones, Lead Mental Health Account Manager

CESSI, A Division of Axiom Resource Management

Program Manager for Recruitment & Outreach

Why is Ticket to Work Important to Alternatives?

- Largest group of disabled participants in the Social Security Administration (SSA) programs are people with mental illness
 - 27% of SSDI beneficiaries (~2.1 ml)*
 - 39% of SSI recipients (~2 ml) **
- Most forms of mental illness are treatable; many promising treatments integrate work as therapy

* All beneficiaries in pay December 2007, from the Annual Statistical Report on the SSDI Program 2008

** Recipients under age 65 in December 2006, from the SSI Annual Statistical Supplement Report 2006

Work can enrich life by:

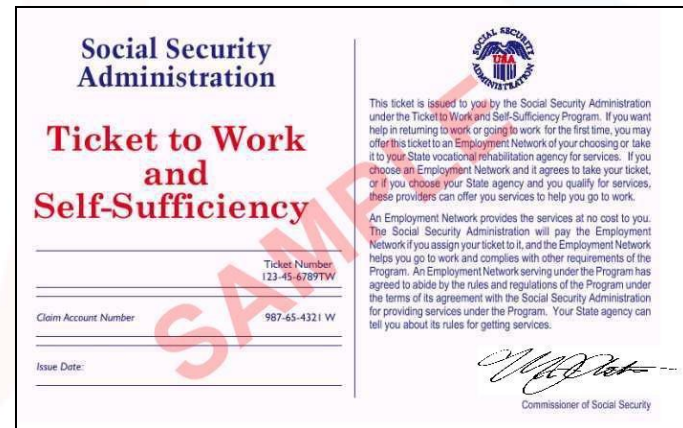
- Increasing independence
- Improving self-esteem, confidence, and fulfillment
- Helping you to acquire new skills through training and experience
- Creating new interpersonal, professional, and community ties

What is SSA's Ticket to Work Program?

- **Free** and **voluntary** employment program
- Assists SSA beneficiaries with disabilities who want to work
- Beneficiaries: people 18-64 receiving
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
 - Sometimes called “Ticket Holders”
- Assigning Ticket and making progress can postpone medical continuing disability review

How Does the Program Work?

- If eligible, a paper Ticket is mailed to you
 - If you already receive disability benefits, your Ticket may have already been mailed to you
 - You do **not** need the paper Ticket to participate
- You decide:
 - Whether, where, and when to assign your Ticket
- Remember, participation is **free and voluntary**
 - There are no penalties if you choose not to participate.



Social Security Administration

Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency

Ticket Number: 123-45-6789TW

Claim Account Number: 987-65-4321 W

Issue Date: _____

Signature of Commissioner of Social Security

Commissioner of Social Security

This ticket is issued to you by the Social Security Administration under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. If you want help in returning to work or going to work for the first time, you may offer this ticket to an Employment Network of your choosing or take it to your State vocational rehabilitation agency for services. If you choose an Employment Network and it agrees to take your ticket, or if you choose your State agency and you qualify for services, these providers can offer you services to help you go to work. An Employment Network provides the services at no cost to you. The Social Security Administration will pay the Employment Network if you assign your ticket to it, and the Employment Network helps you go to work and complies with other requirements of the Program. An Employment Network serving under the Program has agreed to abide by the rules and regulations of the Program under the terms of its agreement with the Social Security Administration for providing services under the Program. Your State agency can tell you about its rules for getting services.

- Approved providers of services are called “Employment Networks” or “ENs.”
- Types of ENs include:
 - Schools, colleges and training programs
 - Public and private agencies
 - One-Stop Career Centers
 - Community-based service providers
 - Employers
 - State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies
- ENs and VR agencies receive payments when they help you get and keep a job.

**Not all ENs offer the same services.
Talk to the EN about services you need
before assigning your Ticket.**

- Counseling and guidance
- Education and training
- Job search, placement and retention services
- Job coaching and ongoing support services
- Work adjustment counseling
- Other supports and services

You have the power to choose your EN!

You and the EN will agree upon an Individualized Work Plan (IWP)

- Identifies your employment goal
- Lists services and supports the EN will provide
- Outlines how you will work together
- Signing the IWP = assigning your Ticket
- Your IWP can be changed!

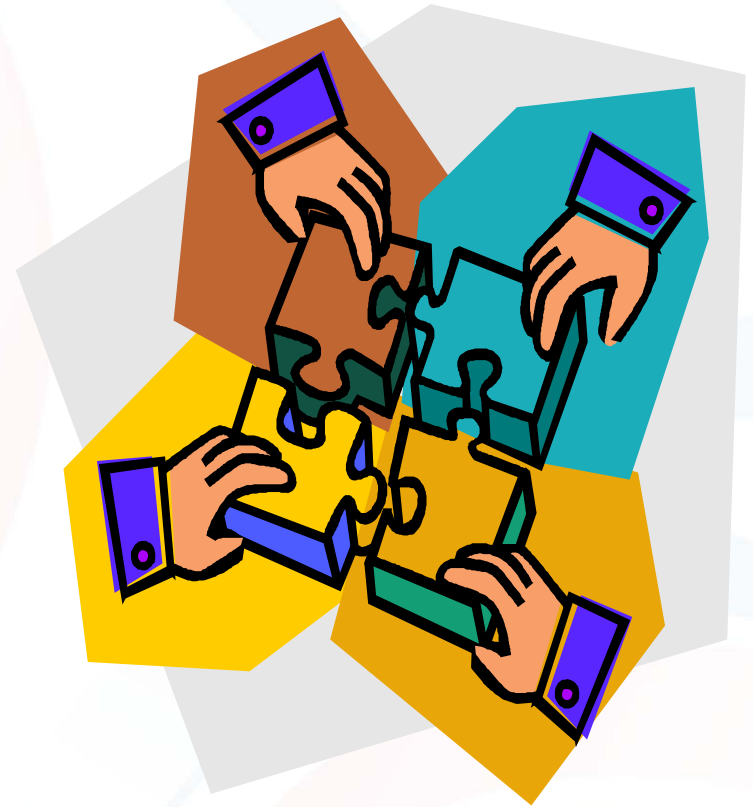


Partnership Plus – A New Option Under the Ticket to Work Program

- If your State VR agency provided services, helped you get a job then closes your case, your Ticket still has value!
- Even though you are working, take your Ticket to an EN
- The EN can:
 - Provide additional job training
 - Provide ongoing supports
 - Help you keep your job
 - Help you advance in your job

What Are Work Incentives

- Work Incentives are SSA rules that help you keep your benefits as you explore work
- Ticket to Work is one of these Work Incentives



Myth 1: “If Social Security disability beneficiaries go to work, Social Security will conduct a review and they will lose benefits.”

- **TRUTH:** Participation in the Ticket program and progressing towards one’s employment goals will postpone regularly scheduled medical Continuing Disability Reviews

Myth 2: “If Social Security disability beneficiaries go to work, they will lose health care coverage.”

➤ **TRUTH:**

SSDI Beneficiaries can get extended Medicare benefits after they return to work.

Many SSI beneficiaries are eligible to continue receiving Medicaid even after they stop receiving SSI benefits as a result of work.

Medicare

- You can **keep your Medicare** coverage for at least 93 months after you complete the trial work period

Medicaid

- If you have earnings too high for a SSI cash payment, **you may still be eligible for Medicaid** through 1619(b).
- If your state has a Medicaid Buy-In program it may provide Medicaid benefits while you work.



Myth 3: “If Social Security disability beneficiaries go to work, get off disability benefits and later lose their jobs, they will have to reapply and wait to get back on benefits.”

➤ **TRUTH:** If a Social Security disability beneficiary goes to work and later stops working due to his/her disability, there is an “Expedited Reinstatement to Benefits”

EXR may be possible if:

- your cash disability benefits ended because of your work and earnings,
- and you stop work within 5 years of your benefits ending.

Then:

- SSA may be able to get you on benefits quickly.
 - Up to 6 months of “temporary cash benefits”
 - Continued Medicare and/or Medicaid coverage

- **Trial Work Period (TWP) (SSDI only)**
 - The TWP allows you to test your ability to work for at least 9 months
 - Full SSDI checks paid for each of those months
- **Extended Period of Eligibility (SSDI only)**
 - For 36 months after the TWP SSA may pay your full SSDI benefit in any months you earn below SGA without:
 - a new application,
 - disability determination,
 - or waiting period.

- **Earned Income Exclusion (SSI only)**
 - Disregard first \$65 (+20 if no other income)
 - Disregard half of earnings above that

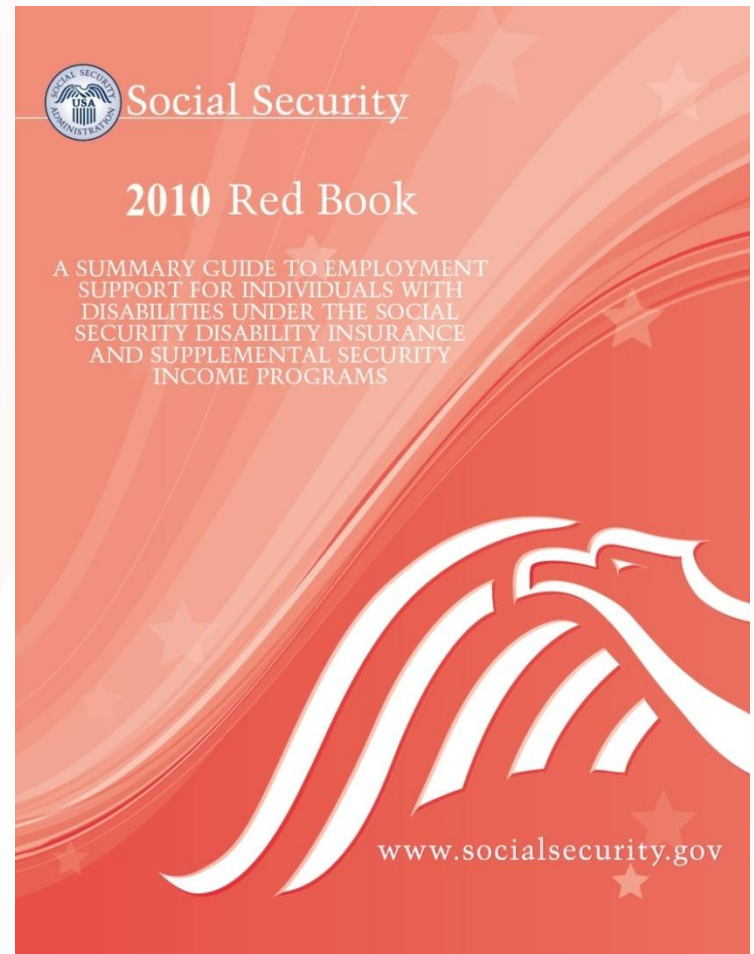
Example:

- \$885 monthly earnings, no other income
- Only \$400 is subtracted from SSI check

Red Book Explains Work Incentives

www.ssa.gov/redbook

Updated each year with new earnings amounts and any other changes.



- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (**WIPA**) Projects
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (**PABSS**)
- SSA Area Work Incentives Coordinator (**AWIC**)



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Projects

WIPAs are SSA-approved organizations that help beneficiaries make informed choices about work

- Services are Free!
- Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs)
 - Provide information on work and work incentives
 - Answer questions about how work affects Federal, state and local benefits
 - Help find the resources or services to achieve your work goals
 - Host Work Incentives Seminar Events (**WISE**)

www.ssa.gov/work/providers



Work Incentive Seminars (WISE)

WISE Events:

- Learn about the Ticket to Work program and other SSA Work Incentives
- Meet with:
 - ENs
 - The State VR agency
 - WIPA Project staff
 - SSA staff
 - Other beneficiaries who want to work
 - Additional state agencies and community partners

To find out if a WISE event is happening near you, visit www.cessi.net/WISE/



Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security

- Assist beneficiaries in obtaining information about VR and employment services
- Provide advocacy or other related services that beneficiaries may need to secure or regain gainful employment
- Visit www.ssa.gov/work and click on “Service Provider Directory”



What Are Area Work Incentives Coordinators?

AWICs:

- Are experts on SSA's Work Incentives and employment support programs
- Manage and coordinate Work Incentives Training
- Provide public support services to beneficiaries with disabilities who want to start or keep working
- Conduct public outreach

Visit <http://www.ssa.gov/work/awiccontacts.html>
to find your local AWIC

MAXIMUS, the SSA contractor that assists in the administration of the Ticket to Work program:

- Helps you assign, un-assign and re-assign your Ticket
- Provides you with a replacement Ticket
- Helps you locate ENs

Contact MAXIMUS at 1-866-968-7842 (v),
1-866-833-2967 (tdd) or

www.yourtickettowork.com

- Work for an Employment Network (EN)
 - If you are a Ticket Holder, you are even more desirable as an employee of an EN
 - Encourage your organization to become an EN
- Become an EN
 - Must document qualifications and experience providing employment-related services
- Get CWIC training
 - www.vcu-ntc.org/training/cwic.cfm

- During 2009, SSA placed emphasis on hiring people with disabilities
- We used the Ticket program, State VR agencies, ENs and WIPA to publicize this opportunity
- More than 600 people with disabilities were hired by SSA
- In 2010, many other Federal agencies are interested in hiring people with disabilities

- The Schedule A process is much faster and easier than the typical federal civil service hiring process
- Federal employment includes great benefits; many different kinds of jobs in many locations
- Check out our Gateway to Federal Employment at www.cessi.net/ttw then click on “Ticket Federal Jobs Gateway” for links to available jobs at partnering Federal agencies



Ticket to Work

Should Have Used My Ticket!

David Jones

SSDI Beneficiary Story

- I became a beneficiary at age 19
 - Because of work during High School I qualified for SSDI and also received some SSI.
 - While learning to cope with Bipolar disorder I received services from Department of Rehab in CA; a great counselor helped me set career goals and I decided on Social Work.
 - To make sure college was the right place I started at community college then transferred to a university.
 - I used a PASS Plan, one of the SSA Work Incentives, to pay for my BSW.

- While obtaining my Social Work degree I volunteered my time with NAMI and helped with Family-to-Family Groups
- I shared my story of success in college
- This built my confidence to transition to a professional job after college

- I received a Ticket in the mail; wish I would have used it!
- At the time I had no idea what it was and did not ask:
 - How would my benefits be affected?
 - Was this a program I would have to commit to?
 - Who would I be working with if I used the Ticket?
- Some of the benefits of the Ticket I did not use:
 - After college I was on my own to find a job.
 - I did not receive help creating my resume.
 - After the second month of work I received a Continuing Disability Review notice; it was difficult to deal with on my own.
 - Not having the guidance of an EN, I was overpaid by SSA and had to pay them back!
- I should have called MAXIMUS at 1-866-968-7842



Ticket to Work

Additional Ticket Resources



Choose Work Web Site

www.choosework.net

Choose Work



Skip To Content Text: -A A +A



CONTACT US

CHOOSE FULFILLMENT. CHOOSE EARNINGS. CHOOSE WORK.
Choose Work through the *Ticket to Work* program, offering people with disabilities* a shot at achieving financial independence by enabling more choice in employment-related support services, and access to meaningful work.

TICKET TO WORK

WISE EVENT

RESOURCES MAP

LEARN MORE

RELATED LINKS
Become an
Employment Network
Frequently Asked
Questions

TICKET TO WORK OVERVIEW



TICKET STORIES



Billy W.
"It's a win-win situation for everyone..."



Joe S.
"The PASS plan made Poppin' Joe's possible..."



Thomas L.
"One of the biggest benefits..."

Choose Work Web Site

- First national broadcast hub for the Ticket Program, including:
 - Ticket Program basics
 - Informative video
 - Success stories
 - Online WISE
 - Local employment resources by region

Online WISE is now available for the first time for those who do not have access to an event in their area

TICKET TO WORK

WISE EVENT

RESOURCES MAP


LEARN MORE

RELATED LINKS

Become an Employment Network
Sign up for a WISE event today!
Frequently Asked Questions

Resources for:
Beneficiaries
Providers
Employers

Become a fan! on facebook



*Participants must be adults 18 to 64 and receiving SSI and/or SSDI to qualify

WISE EVENTS OVERVIEW



00:42 / 02:29

They can go out and try to work.



WISE CHAPTERS

Chapter 1
Intro

Chapter 2
SSDI Work Incentives

Chapter 3
SSI Work Incentives

Chapter 4
Ticket To Work

Chapter 5
Next Steps

Contact information for ENs, WIPA, Protection & Advocacy and Vocational Rehabilitation agencies made available via user-friendly map interface

TICKET TO WORK

WISE EVENT

RESOURCES MAP

LEARN MORE

RELATED LINKS

[Become an Employment Network Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Resources for:
[Beneficiaries](#)
[Providers](#)
[Employers](#)

Become a fan! on facebook

*Participants must be adults 18 to 64 and receiving SSI and/or SSDI to qualify.

[Text View of Data](#)

FIND WORK IN CALIFORNIA print x

EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS	WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES
<p>DISABLED RESOURCES CENTER INC 2750 E SPRING ST LONG BEACH, CA 90806 (562)427-1000 (562)427-1366 www.drcinc.org</p> <p>ASIAN REHABILITATION SERVICE INC. 1701 E. WASHINGTON BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90021 (213)743-9242 www.asianrehab.org</p> <p>JAY NOLAN COMMUNITY SERVICES INC. 15501 SAN FERNANDO MISSION BLVD</p>	<p>Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) 318 Cayuga St. Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 757-2968 x816 (831) 462-8720 (831) 636-5196 www.cccil.org</p> <p>Human Potential Consultants LLC 500 E. Carson Plaza Drive Los Angeles, CA 90746 310-756-1560</p> <p>Verdugo Workforce Investment Board 1255 S. Central Avenue Glendale, CA 91204 310-326-0993</p>	<p>Disability Rights California 100 Howe Avenue Sacramento, CA 95825 916-488-9955</p>	<p>CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION PO BOX 944222 SACRAMENTO, CA 94244 (916)263-7495 (866)449-2730 (866)359-7705 www.dor.ca.gov</p>

Alaska	Alabama	Arkansas	Arizona	California	Colorado	Connecticut
District of Colu...	Delaware	Florida	Georgia	Hawaii	Iowa	Idaho
Illinois	Indiana	Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Massachusetts	Maryland
Maine	Michigan	Minnesota	Missouri	Mississippi	Montana	North Carolina

Support for Americans with disabilities who want to work

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- eNews





For More Information

- Contact David at CESSI djones@cessi.net 703-448-6155 x 201 if you know of an organization who might be a perfect EN
- For more information on the Ticket to Work Program:
 - > Visit SSA's Work Site at:
www.socialsecurity.gov/work
 - > Visit CESSI's websites at:
www.cessi.net/ttw
www.choosework.net
 - > Visit the Maximus web site at:
www.yourtickettowork.com
or call: 1-866-968-7842 voice (1-866-833-2967 tty)