

# Ticket to Work: Support on Your Employment Journey



**TICKET**  
*to* **Work**

**WISE**  
Work Incentive Seminar Event

MAY 27, 2026

**Live Webinar Will Begin at 3 p.m. ET**

# Ticket to Work: Support on Your Employment Journey



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**WISE**

Work Incentive Seminar Event

# WELCOME

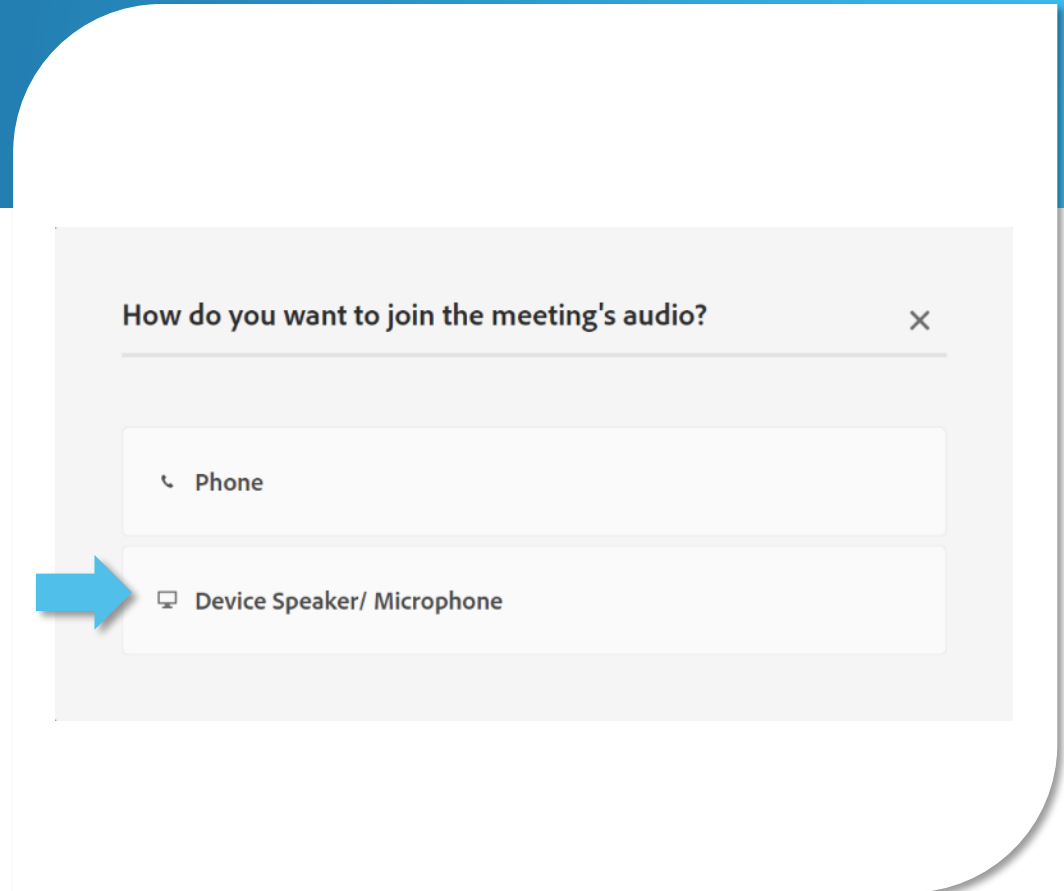
## Accessing Today's Webinar

### ATTENDEES WILL BE MUTED

Select an option for **How do you want to join the meeting's audio?**

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# WELCOME

## Accessing Today's Webinar

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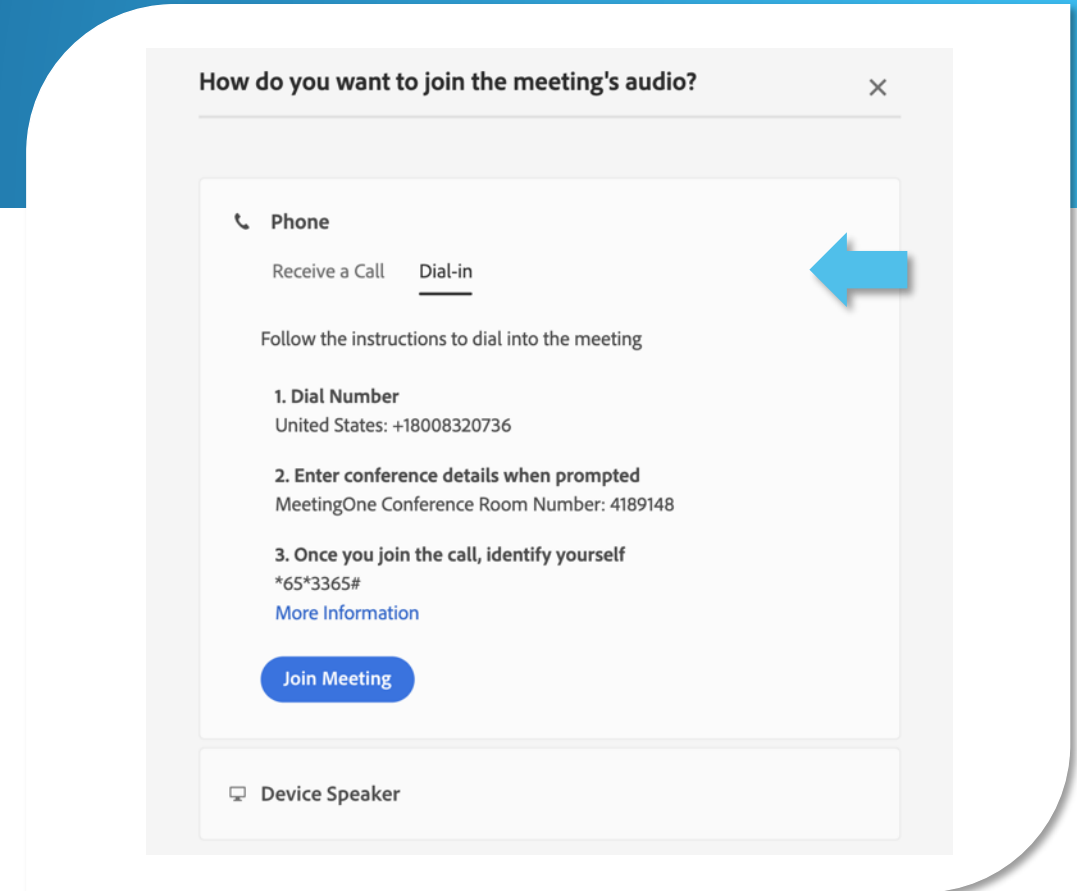
After clicking the **Phone** option as seen on the previous slide, you will see the window shown here.

Select the **Dial-in** option, then click **Join Meeting**.

On your phone, dial:

Toll-free number: **1-800-832-0736**

Access code: **4189148#**



# WELCOME

## Adobe Connect Platform

The screenshot shows the Adobe Connect interface with the following elements:

- PRESENTATION POD:** A blue header with the text "WELCOME" and "Accessing Today's Webinar". Below it, a white box contains the text "ATTENDEES WILL BE MUTED" and instructions on how to join the meeting's audio. A blue arrow points from the label to this section.
- Q&A POD:** A vertical sidebar on the right side of the screen, containing a "Q & A" header and a "Type here" input field. A blue arrow points from the label to this sidebar.
- CLOSED CAPTIONING POD:** A grey bar at the bottom of the screen. A blue arrow points from the label to this bar.
- WEB LINKS POD:** A vertical sidebar on the right side of the screen, containing a "WEB LINKS" header and a list of links. A blue arrow points from the label to this sidebar.

Additional interface elements include a "How do you want to join the meeting's audio?" dialog box with "Phone" and "Device Speaker/ Microphone" options, and a "TICKET to Work | WISE 3" logo at the bottom right of the main content area.

# WELCOME

## Real-Time Captioning

Real-time captions can be found in the **Captioning pod**, which appears below the slides.

You can show or hide the caption display, and you can change the text size and choose the text color combinations to best meet your vision requirements.

To open closed captioning select the **CC option** from the top menu bar. The captioning link can also be accessed in the Web Links pod under the title **Web Captioning**.

You can also access [captioning online](#).

### CLOSED CAPTIONS

Hide captions

English



Text size



Color



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## American Sign Language (ASL)

If you're fluent in ASL and would like support during today's webinar, use our [ASL User Guide](#) that provides instructions to connect with an interpreter through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Video Relay Service (VRS).

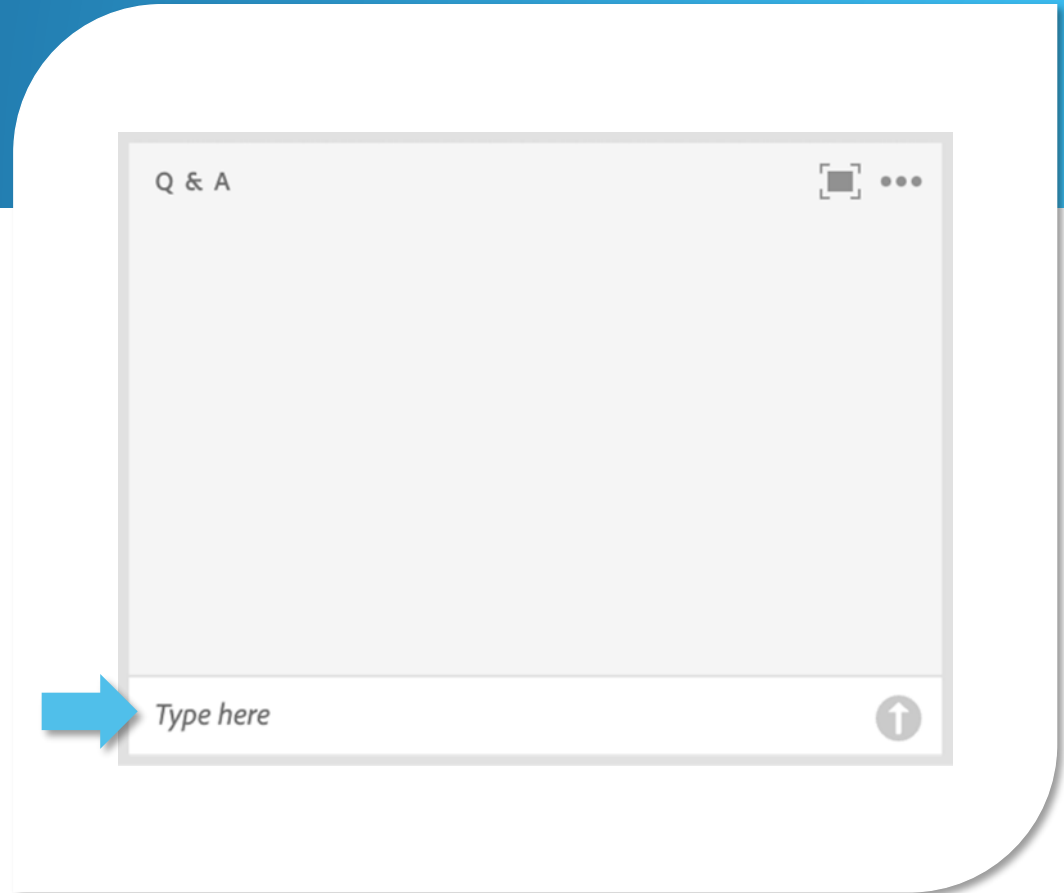


# WELCOME

## Questions and Answers (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.

If you are listening by phone and are not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing them to [TTWwebinars@ssa.gov](mailto:TTWwebinars@ssa.gov).

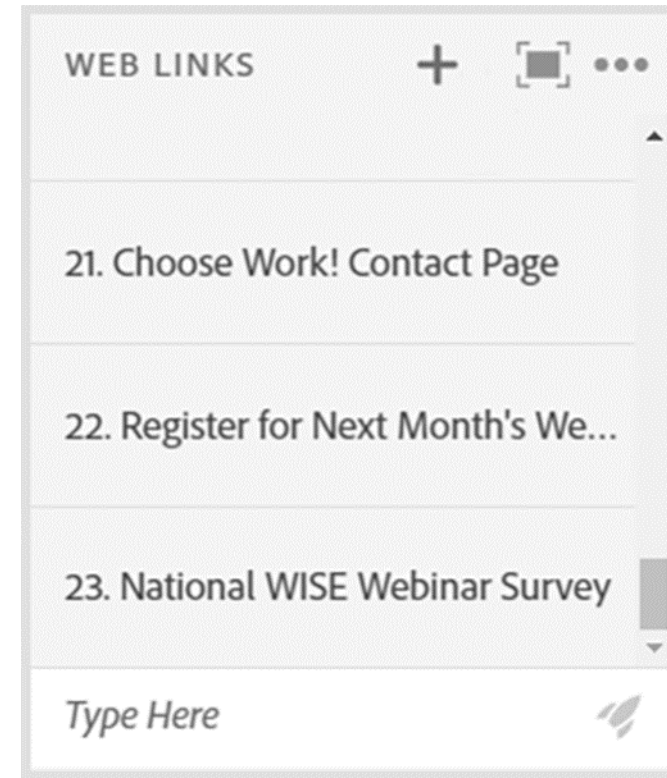


# WELCOME

## Webinar Online Resources

Please use the **Web Links pod** to find the resources presented during today's webinar.

If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may email [TTWwebinars@ssa.gov](mailto:TTWwebinars@ssa.gov) for a list of available resources.



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## 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 [TTWwebinars@ssa.gov](mailto:TTWwebinars@ssa.gov).



# WELCOME

## Presenters



**MODERATOR**

**Derek Shields**

Ticket Program Manager



**PRESENTER**

**Raymond A. Cebula, III, J.D.**

Cornell University

# Webinar Overview

Today, we'll discuss how Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program can help you and answer questions like:

What is Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program?

Can I work and keep my Social Security benefits?

Can I keep my Medicaid or Medicare when I start working?

Who can help me achieve my work goals?



# **What is Social Security's Ticket to Work Program?**

# What Is the Ticket to Work Program?

## 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 (SSDI and/or SSI) and want to work



# Social Security Disability Programs



**Social Security  
Disability  
Insurance  
(SSDI)**



**Supplemental  
Security  
Income  
(SSI)**

# How Can the Ticket Program Help?

The Ticket to Work Program connects you with free employment services to help you:

- Decide if work is right for you
- Prepare for work
- Find a paid work opportunity
- Succeed at work

## Learn More:

[What is Social Security's Ticket to Work Program?](#)

[Self-Guided Tutorial](#)



# Ticket to Work Help Line

The Ticket to Work Program offers a toll-free Help Line to answer your questions and support you on your journey to financial independence.

**Call the Ticket to Work Help Line**  
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET

**1-866-968-7842**

**1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**





**Can I Work and Keep My  
Social Security Benefits?**

# Other Social Security Work Incentives

The answer is yes! Social Security has safety nets in place, called Work Incentives, that allow you to keep some or all of your benefits while you try work.

- Work Incentives are programs and rules that help beneficiaries enter, re-enter or continue employment by protecting their eligibility for benefit payments and/or health care coverage until they can replace their Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments with earnings from employment or self-employment, according to Social Security's standards.
- Whether you are looking for a job for the first time or returning to work after an injury or illness, Work Incentives can help you through the transition to work and toward financial independence.

# What Is a Plan to Achieve Self-Support?

A Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) is a Work Incentive for SSI recipients. It is a written plan of action for pursuing a specific work-related goal.

- A PASS describes the steps you will take and the items and services you will need to reach your work goal.
- When you have an approved PASS, Social Security does not count the money you set aside to help you reach your work goal when determining your SSI payment amount.

# Who Is Eligible for PASS?

If you receive SSI or can become eligible to receive SSI, you may qualify for a PASS.

- If you receive SSDI, you may become eligible for a PASS if you have a work goal that would allow you to earn enough income that you no longer qualify for SSDI.
- You would need to meet all other qualifications for a PASS and set aside enough of your SSDI payment that you could become eligible for SSI.



# Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)

- EXR is a Work Incentive that applies to both SSDI and SSI beneficiaries.
- It is a safety net for people who successfully return to work and lose their entitlement to SSDI or SSI benefits and work stops within 5 years of when benefits terminated.
- It allows up to 6 months of temporary benefit payments while awaiting a medical determination; you may also be eligible for Medicare and/or Medicaid during this provisional benefit period.

**Can I Keep My  
Medicaid or Medicare  
When I Start Working?**

# The Answer is Yes!

- If you receive SSDI benefits or SSI payments of any amount, you will keep your Medicare or Medicaid.
- If your benefit payments stop due to earnings or work and you remain medically disabled, you may be able to keep your Medicare and Medicaid through:
  - Work Incentives
  - Buy-in Programs (available in many states)

[Medicare and Medicaid Employment Supports](#)



# Work Incentives and Programs to Help You Keep Medicare and Medicaid

## MEDICAID

- ✓ Medicaid While Working – 1619(b)
- ✓ Medicaid Buy-in Program



## MEDICARE

- ✓ Extended Period of Medicare Coverage
- ✓ Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work



# Medicaid While Working or 1619(b)

If you receive SSI, you may qualify for continued Medicaid coverage when your payments stop due to earnings if you:

- Have been eligible for an SSI payment for at least 1 month.
- Continue to meet Social Security's definition of disability.
- Still meet all other non-disability SSI requirements.
- Need Medicaid benefits to continue to work.
- Have gross earnings that are below your state's threshold of eligibility (see updated state threshold amounts at: [ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/1619b.htm](https://ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/1619b.htm)).

# Medicaid Buy-In Program

Many states allow you to purchase Medicaid under a Buy-in Program. You may qualify if you meet the definition of “disabled” under the Social Security Act.

- Each program is different, but most require that you have some earnings from work. Some allow you to have significant earnings from work or self-employment and greater savings than most Medicaid programs allow.
- Under certain circumstances, people who receive SSDI benefits may be eligible for Medicaid Buy-in Programs.
- You should check with your local Medicaid agency to find out what is available in your state.

# Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work

After premium-free Medicare coverage ends due to work, you can buy continued Medicare coverage, as long as you remain medically disabled.

- You are eligible to buy Medicare coverage if:
  - You are not yet age 65, and
  - You continue to have a disabling impairment, and
  - Your Medicare stopped due to earnings from work

# Extended Period of Medicare Coverage

Most SSDI beneficiaries whose benefits stop due to work will continue to receive, after their Trial Work Period, at least 93 consecutive months of:

- Hospital Insurance (Part A)
- Supplemental Medical Insurance (Part B), if enrolled
- Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D), if enrolled



# Have Medicare Questions?



For more information, please visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).



You can also talk or chat with a live person 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227)  
or **1-877-486-2048 (TTY)**

[Talk to Someone](#) | [Contact Medicare](#)



# Success Story: Meet Frances



# Frances' Success Story

Frances, a registered nurse, received SSDI due to a stroke that caused issues that interfered with consistent employment, such as driving and reading.

Frances received a letter from the Ticket Program, and her friends and family encouraged her to go back to work.

Frances connected with The Choice Group, a Virginia-based EN.

[Frances's Success Story](#)



# Connecting to Her Employment Network (EN)

- Frances first worked with a career counselor to find telehealth medical jobs so that she could use her skills in her career field.
- When Frances was feeling stronger, she wanted to pursue in-person nursing again. Her EN helped her develop a resume, practice interview skills, and offered benefits counseling.



# Frances Makes Her Comeback!

- Frances was hired as an Endoscopy Sedation Nurse and was thrilled to be back in the medical field!
- Frances not only achieved financial independence but was also noticed by her colleagues. She won a Daisy Award prior to her stroke and recently won another one in her current role. This award celebrates and recognizes nurses, thanking them for the care and kindness they provide.



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“I’m happy The Choice Group and Ticket to Work exist. I’m living proof you can transition back to work. I’m so glad I’m stubborn; I didn’t quit.”

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**Q&A**





**Who Can Help You  
Achieve Your Work Goals?**

# Achieving Your Work Goals with Ticket to Work

As you think about returning to work and possibly changing jobs or careers, you may have questions and need support.

- Connecting with a **Ticket Program service provider** can help you develop achievable goals and establish a path to find and maintain employment in your new career.
- Ticket Program service providers can help you identify the type of job or career you might enjoy and any transferable skills you may have.

# Ticket Program Service Providers

Through the Ticket Program, you'll have access to a variety of Ticket Program service providers, including:



Employment  
Networks  
(EN)



State Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
(VR) Agencies

# 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**.



# How Can Working With an EN Help You?

Services and supports are designed to help you on the path to financial independence through work and may include helping you to:

- Identify your work goals
- Write and review your resume
- Prepare for interviews
- Request reasonable accommodations
- Receive benefits 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 may offer benefits counseling and may also be able to help you with:

- Vocational rehabilitation
- Training and education



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

# How Can Working With a VR Help You?

## VR agencies:

- Usually work with individuals who need more extensive services.
- In some states, this includes intensive training, education, and rehabilitation.
- They may also provide career counseling and job placement assistance as well as counseling about how earnings from work may affect Social Security disability benefits.



# How Do You Find a Service Provider?



To find a service provider online, visit the [Find Help page](#). Search by:

- ✓ ZIP code
- ✓ Services offered
- ✓ Disability type
- ✓ Languages spoken
- ✓ Provider type  
(EN, Workforce EN, VR)



For a list of service providers, call the Ticket to Work Help Line at **1-866-968-7842** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET



# Success Story: Meet Hazel



# Hazel's Story

- In high school, Hazel began experiencing sudden mood swings and had difficulty controlling her emotions.
- She was later diagnosed with multiple mental health conditions. And after years of struggling with her mental health and addiction, Hazel found the support she needed to create a path to recovery and financial independence.



# Ready to Work

- Hazel began working part-time at Polaris House, a clubhouse community dedicated to helping its members recover from mental illness. She then found counselors who helped her apply for SSDI.
- When she was later offered full-time work at Polaris House, she wondered how earnings from work would affect her benefits.
- She also wondered what would happen if her disabilities interfered with work after she had stopped receiving SSDI.



# Hazel and the Ticket Program

- As Hazel weighed the risks and rewards of full-time work, a counselor at an EN told her about the Ticket Program.
- Hazel learned she was eligible for the Ticket Program and assigned her Ticket to her EN.
- With help from her EN, Hazel learned she would not suddenly lose her benefits. Because of the Trial Work Period, she would have time to determine how full-time employment would work for her.
- In addition, because of another Work Incentive called [Expedited Reinstatement](#), if Hazel had to stop working due to her disability within 5 years of when her benefits stopped, she could request to have her benefits reinstated without having to complete a new application.



# Hazel and SGA

- It's been nine years since Hazel took those first steps into Polaris House's kitchen as a volunteer.
- She no longer receives SSDI and earns above SGA.
- She has since traded her SSDI benefits for a larger paycheck; overcome addiction; learned how to manage her mental health; and helped countless others find their way.
- Hazel uses lessons from her own experience to provide authentic, effective guidance to Polaris House members.



# Hazel's View on Financial Independence

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“For the first time in my life, I don't have to depend on a government check. I pay my own bills. I drive my own car. I have my own place.

I have people who need and appreciate me, the respect of the community... and I have integrity. I'm proud to say I can afford that!”

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[Hazel's Success Story](#)

**Q&A**



# How To Get Started

Social Security's Ticket to Work Program has resources ready to help you get started!

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line

1-866-968-7842

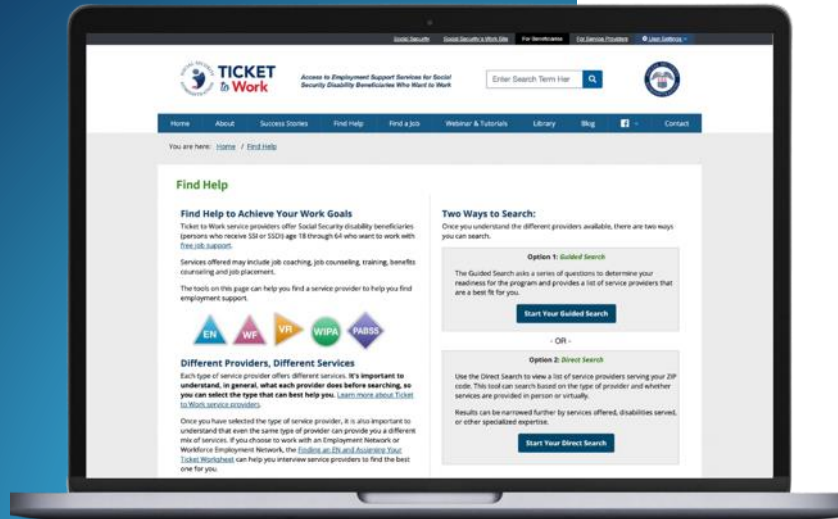
1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

Visit Our Website

[choosework.ssa.gov](https://choosework.ssa.gov)

Use the Find Help Tool

[choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp](https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp)



# How To Connect

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**Visit the [Choose Work! Contact page](#)** to find us on social media and subscribe to blog and email updates.



**Opt-in to receive text messages** by texting TICKET to 1-571-489-5292. Standard messaging rates may apply. You may opt-out at any time.



**Email us at** [TicketToWork@ssa.gov](mailto:TicketToWork@ssa.gov).