

Nov. 19, 2014, Facebook Q&A Session Transcript

Question	Answer
<p>Facilitator: Welcome to today's live Ticket to Work Facebook Q&A. For those who attended the WISE webinar, we hope you enjoyed the presentation. However, anybody and everybody is welcome to participate!</p> <p>Also, anytime during today's event – feel free to ask questions, comment, share, and like posts!</p>	
<p>Facilitator: We're going to begin by reminding everyone to be courteous and be mindful of personal privacy.</p> <p>Please do not include personally identifiable information, such as Social Security numbers, phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses in your comment. The Page administrators reserve the right to remove comments that may be construed to reveal any personally identifiable information. Comments that include profanity, personal attacks or content deemed offensive or inappropriate by the Page administrators will also be removed. Your participation indicates acceptance of these terms which can also be found in our Info Tab. Thank you for your cooperation!</p>	
<p>Facilitator: Now, please join us in welcoming our featured guest. Sheriene Knox is a Ticket to Work Coordinator at Operation: Job Ready Vets (OJRV), a not-for-profit organization located in Indianapolis, Indiana.</p> <p>OJRV is dedicated to preparing service members, veterans, military spouses and caregivers for successful employment by connecting them with employers that seek top quality, well-trained employees.</p> <p>She will respond to your questions and share her expertise. Ok, let's begin!</p>	
<p>Facilitator: Please feel free to leave your questions on the Wall or in the comments as we get started.</p>	

<p>Q1: I'm not a vet, I've been on Disability since 2009 Because of my Diabetes. I wanna go back to work. I applied for ticket back to work, I got back a piece of paper with a 100#s no number locally. I don't want to spend my time on the phone all day. I just need part time, just to make a little money. The social security here in my town is no help!!!</p>	<p>A1: Hi Terri, the ticket to Work program has improved since 2009! You can use our Find Help tool http://www.choosework.net/findhelp/ to locate a provider that might be a good fit for you. With the tool you are able to narrow your list down by a variety of criteria. You can call also talk to someone at Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 that can help you sort through the list of providers.</p>
<p>Q2: Are there any EN's, VR's, etc. that help with higher education or certification courses? I'm worried that I will choose the wrong EN. I've read everything I've seen on here but I'm still pretty confused.</p>	<p>A2: Hi Kimberly, thanks for this important question. It's a question you should pose to the service providers that you interview. Find out what they offer in terms of employment support, and use the information in our Find Help tool as a guide. To help you in finding the best EN or VR for you, check out this guide available on our website: http://www.chooseworkttw.net/library/choosing-the-right-employment-network-for-you After assigning your ticket and you find you're unsatisfied with your provider, you may re-assign your ticket at any time.</p>
<p>Q3: I have a question. This is it so hard for rural folks to get help on TTW because we are told to go to different agencies that do not have offices where we live and there are no public transportation choices either so what can be done to help bridge the gap?</p>	<p>A3: Thank you Donna for your question. You may want to try working with a national Employment Network, since many of those organizations provide services virtually. You can find out through our Find Help tool (www.choosework.net/findhelp/) which providers are national and their contact information is listed for your reference. You can interview as many Employment Networks as you like before assigning your ticket, and if you're unhappy with the services that you're receiving, then you may assign your ticket to another provider.</p>
<p>Q4: The TTW Vets program was informative and helpful. There are many questions left unanswered in directly persons to consider trying work supports program, especially due to traumatic brain injury. Since the enacted law doesn't require EN to be competent in each disability, is it just trial & error to find a service provider with such expertise?</p>	<p>A4: Hi Robert, thank you for your question. On our find help tool atwww.chooseworkttw.net/findhelp/ allows you to create a list of contact information for Employment Networks as well as what type of disabilities they support. You can use this tool to find providers that would be a good fit for you.</p>
<p>Q5: What happens if a Ticket was issued in one state but you've moved to another and lost your ticket?</p>	<p>A5: Good news, Robert. Your ticket is still valid if you move to another state. If you have assigned your ticket, you should check with the provider to see if it can serve you in your new state because many Ticket to Work providers do operate in more than one state. If it does not, you can un-</p>

	<p>assign your ticket and re-assign it to another service provider in your new location. You can call also contact the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday from 8:00AM - 8:00PM ET for assistance finding new providers.</p>
<p>Q6: I am just starting out. How do I join the Ticket to Work program? Where can I get information about the program? I would rather talk or meet with someone rather than online.</p>	<p>A6: Hi Joe - You've come to the right place! If you are a Social Security disability beneficiary age 18 through 64, the Ticket to Work program can connect you with free employment support services such as career counseling and job placement. To talk to someone, you can call our Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday from 8:00AM - 8:00PM ET. You can also visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work to learn more. We hope this helps!</p>
<p>Q7: Do Veteran Disability Benefits count toward Social Security income calculations?</p>	<p>A7: If you're getting VA benefits due to a service-connected disability, your payment amounts won't affect your Social Security disability insurance (SSDI) benefits. However, if you are receiving a Supplemental Security Income benefit because of a disability, that SSI benefit will be reduced or you may be ineligible for any payments. It is considered "unearned income" and would reduce your SSI benefits dollar for dollar; the first \$20 of your VA benefit is not counted.</p>
<p>Q8: Does the Ticket to Work program have any tuition assistance built in to it?</p>	<p>A8: It depends! Some ENs do provide tuition assistance. State Vocational Rehabilitation Services can provide assistance if you meet their guidelines along with some WorkForce ENs. The WorkForce ENs usually have assistance for training for the jobs considered "most needed" in their region. I would contact first the college/vocational school you are interested in attending to see about financial assistance/grants you might qualify in receiving.</p>
<p>Q9: Lots of the veterans I work with have small children and often the spouse must stop working to care for the children due to lack of income for child care and the need to care for the disabled spouse. Do any of these programs offer child care assistance?</p>	<p>A9: Some programs may offer child care assistance, but it will likely depend on the state. We suggest you contact your local Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) project to learn about these types of services. You can find a WIPA on the Find Help tool at www.choosework.net/findhelp.</p>
<p>Q10: Does Operation Job Ready Veterans serve veterans nationwide?</p>	<p>A10: Yes we do serve veterans nationwide!</p>

<p>Q11: What are some of the types of jobs you have helped people find through Operation Job Ready Veterans?</p>	<p>A11: We have assisted veterans in accepting positions such as HR Director, Various Management Levels, Sales, Project Managers, Manufacturing, Welding, Transportation, Pharmacy Assistant just to name a few.</p>
<p>Q12: Can Ticket to Work help me with starting my own business?</p>	<p>A12: Your Work Incentive Planning and Assistance project (WIPA) can help you with self-employment! Your Community Work Incentives Coordinator can assist you with applying for a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) work incentive, and provide you with help in contacting agencies that administer Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). Vocational Rehabilitation agency is also a great place to go when considering self-employment, as they can help with start-up costs. There are many agencies that can help you along the way, such as Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORES) and Small Business Administration, who can help with writing business plans and cost analysis. Self-employment is a viable goal, but does require a lot of work. Please contact some of the above agencies to help you get started! You can find your nearest WIPA at http://www.choosework.net/findhelp/</p>
<p>Q13: Can a WIPA or EN work with me over the phone?</p>	<p>A13: Many service providers offer services over the phone and by e-mail. We recommend you find your local WIPA project on our Find Help tool (www.choosework.net/findhelp) and contact them to find out if they provide services virtually. Many national Employment Networks also provide services virtually, and you can find these in the Find Help tool as well. It's wise to ask up front how the providers deliver their employment services.</p>
<p>Q14: During the webinar, Sheriene mentioned a web site that listed some veterans' resources. Can you share that web site?</p>	<p>A14: The website is at the Your Ticket to work website: www.yourtickettowork.com/web/ttw/resources-for-veterans</p>
<p>Q15: Can ticket to work help me find a job? I'm a little hesitant to try and get a job because of my illness. I can get sick vary easy and sometimes quite a bit. I lost my last job because I got really sick and I was no longer able to hold down a job.</p>	<p>A15: We're sorry to hear about your illness. Many people we hear from face similar challenges. The good news is that the Ticket to Work program may be able to help you explore work, while protecting your benefits. We encourage you to contact a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) project near you. WIPA projects are community-based organizations that will work with you one-on-one to discuss what</p>

	<p>kinds of work might be a good fit for your situation. They can also offer counseling on the effect of work on your benefits, as almost any amount can impact those benefits. To learn more about your options, you can also call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday from 8:00AM - 8:00PM ET. We hope this helps!</p>
<p>Q16: I'm an Accountant. I went to a Hiring Our Heroes event and every single employer was looking for mechanics and factory workers. Where do I go to find employers looking for business workers? There are only two EN's within 50 miles of my house, both VRA/EN.</p>	<p>A16: Depending on your work experience other options to look at are posting your resume on job databases such as: Indeed, Simply Hired, Monster, etc. An EN can assist you in developing your resume' or most of the job databases have do-it-yourself resume' templates. If you have little experience in working as an accountant then perhaps checking into a temp. service for accounting positions might be a good option or look at companies doing taxes for the experience if you like to do taxes for individuals.</p>
<p>Facilitator: We're wrapping up our Q&A on Facebook with Sheriene Knox from Operation: Job Ready.</p> <p>If you have additional questions that we could not respond to today, we encourage you to visit our website at www.choosework.net and to contact a specialist at the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 / 866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. EST.</p>	
<p>Facilitator: Thank you to everyone who participated today, including Sheriene! We hope you enjoyed the discussion.</p>	