

Helping You Today *So You Succeed Tomorrow*

TICKET TO WORK



**Free Support Services for
People Who Have a Disability
and Are Ready to Work**

Work Incentives Seminar Event

Date: Wednesday, February 25
Time: 3:00-4:00 pm EST



Accessing Today's Webinar

Toll-Free number: 1-855-749-4750

Access code: 312-228-683

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Webinar Accessibility

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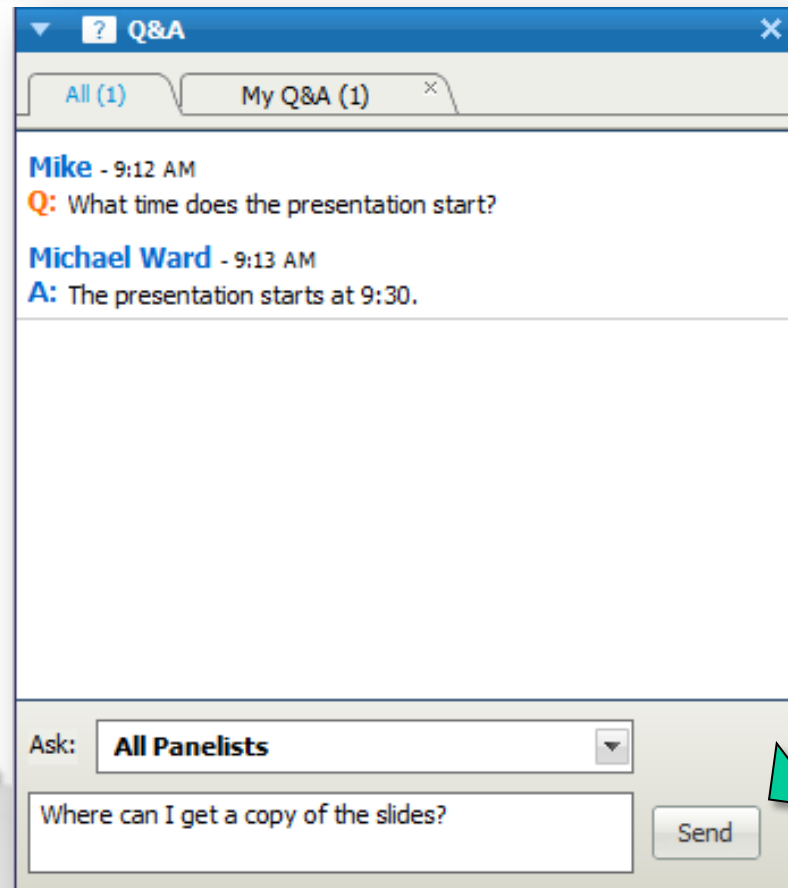
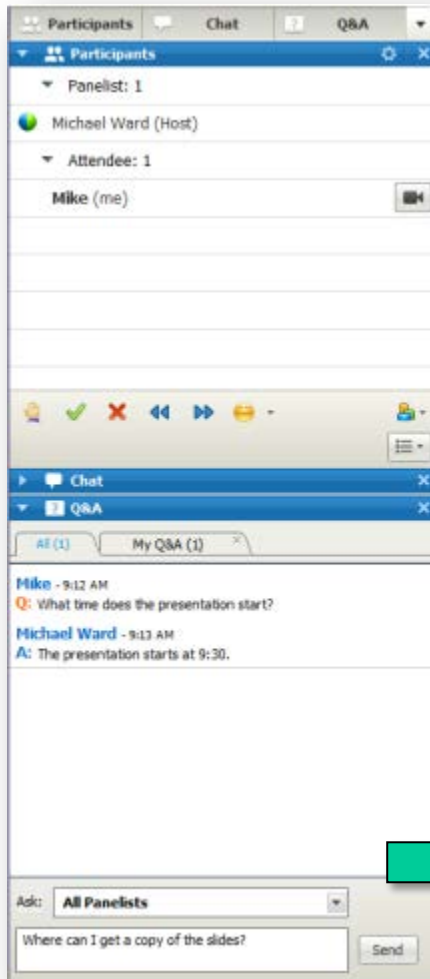
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Webinar Question & Answer Period

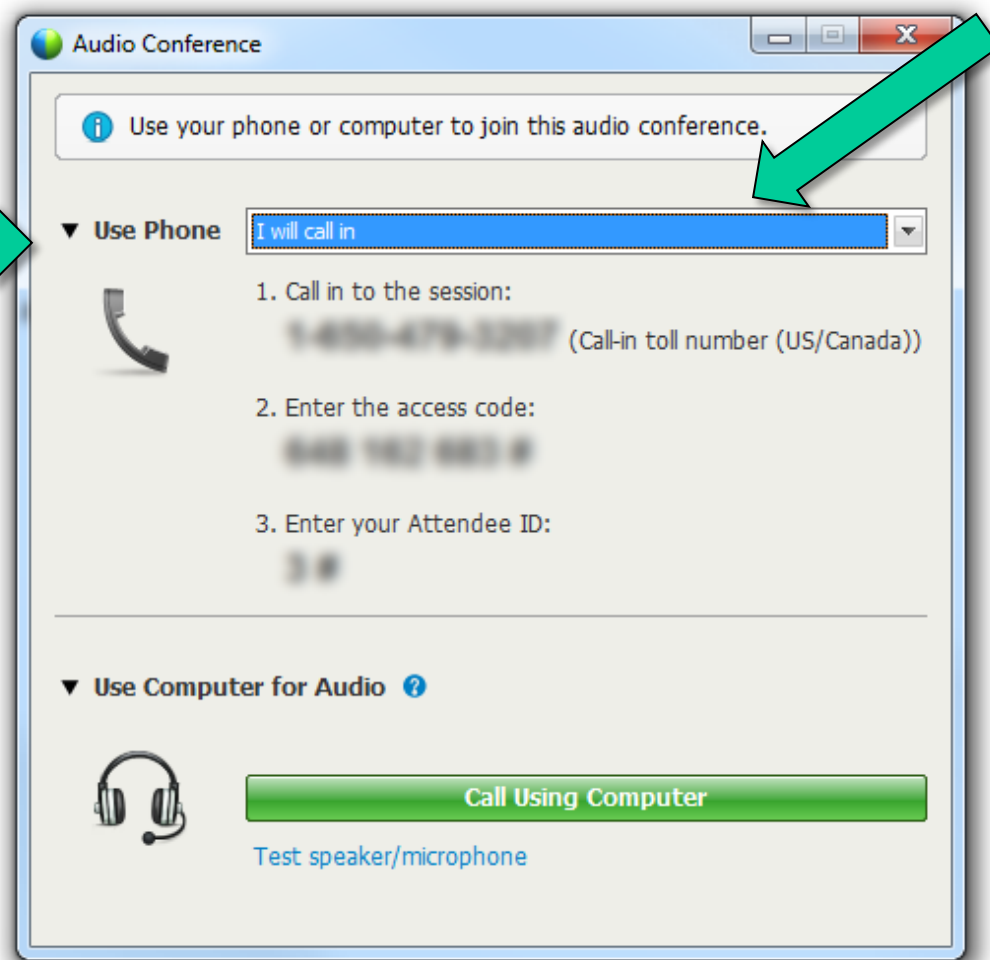
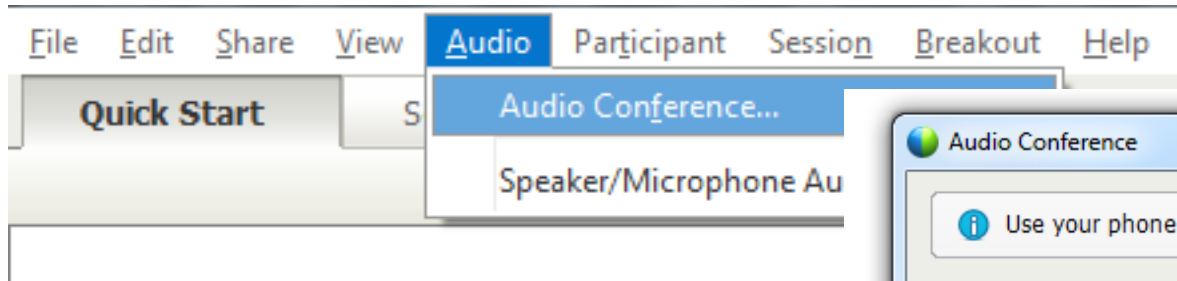
During the webinar, submit your questions on the webinar “question and answer box” or to webinars@choosework.net

Anytime after the day of the webinar, email your questions to support@choosework.net

Audio and Questions Panels



Audio and Questions Panels



Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Ray Cebula, Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University

What is Financial Independence?

Joyce Armstrong, Connecticut Department of Rehabilitative Services

Social Security Disability Benefits and Work Incentives

Joyce Armstrong

Earned Income Tax Credit and Individual Development Accounts

Joyce Armstrong

Other Resources

Ray Cebula

Questions and Answers

Presentation Team

What is Financial Independence?

What is Financial Independence?

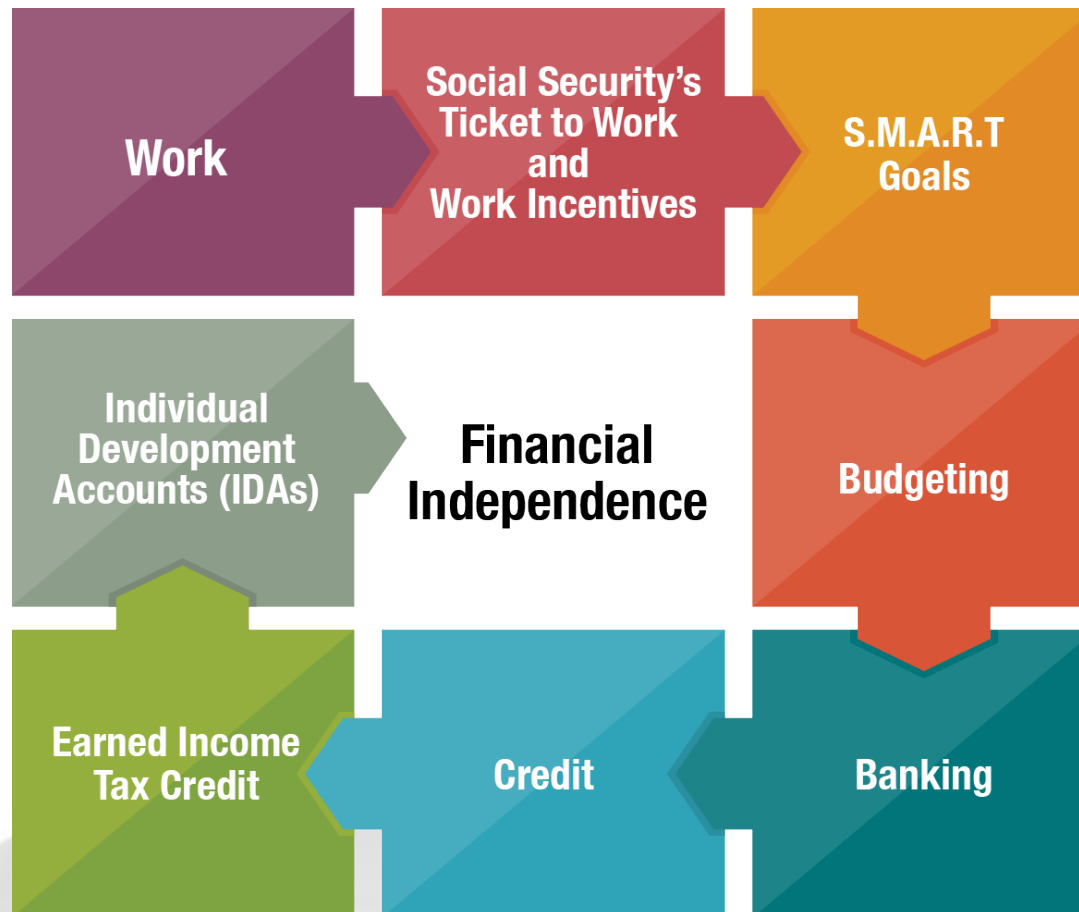
Financial independence means

- **Being able to support yourself** to meet your wants and needs;
- Being able to **make choices and have options** about what you buy, where you live, and what you do with your free time; and,
- **Not being limited by Social Security disability benefits and working your way off of cash benefits** whenever possible.

Is Financial Independence Possible for Me?

- Today, we'll give you an overview of programs, services and incentives that you can use to get on the road to financial independence.

Tools for Financial Independence



Are There Risks?

- **Absolutely**, which is why you need to be smart.
- Be smart by getting to know **Social Security's Ticket to Work and Work Incentives** programs. They can help you navigate to a good job, a good career, and better, self-supporting future.

Follow the Rules

- Learn **how and when to report your earnings from work to Social Security** and other benefits providers; and,
- Keep good records; it will help you take advantage of work incentives and avoid overpayments.

Social Security Disability Benefits and Work Incentives



Social Security Disability Benefit Programs



Social
Security
Disability
Insurance

Social Security Disability Benefit Programs



Supplemental
Security
Income

Get to Know Ben



The Ticket To Work Program



Taking the Next Step

- Gathering information and resources is key to planning your journey toward employment.
- **Ticket to Work** and **Work Incentives** can help make your journey a smooth one.



Starting the Journey

Only you can decide if work is
the right choice for you.



Why Choose Work?

- Earn more income
- Gain independence
- Meet new people
- Learn new skills



The Ticket to Work Program

- Supports career development for people with disabilities who want to work
- Is for Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64
- Is free and voluntary





Work Incentives

Work Incentives

Work Incentives are special rules that allow you to:

- Receive training for new skills
- Improve the skills you already have
- Pursue your education
- Try different jobs
- Start a career
- Gain confidence



Most Common Work Incentives



Earned
Income
Exclusion



Protection from
Medical
Continuing
Disability
Reviews



Trial Work
Period



Continuation
of Medicare
Coverage



Section
1619(b)
Continued
Medicaid
Eligibility



Expedited
Reinstatement



Megan's Journey to Financial Independence

2008

Diagnosed with
clinical depression

2010

Connected with
an Employment
Network

2011

Successfully working.
Begins Extended Period
of Eligibility (EPE), and
cash benefits stop.

2013

Work ends during
EPE. Cash benefits
re-start without
new application.

2014

Started her own
small business



Earned Income Tax Credit



Did You Know that the IRS Can Give You a Tax Credit for Working?

- The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a tax credit for low to moderate income workers ages 25 – 64 or 18 – 64 with a qualifying child;
- You can file for it **even if you didn't earn enough to have to file taxes**; and,
- You can file for the credit **even if the tax year has passed**, up to three years back.



Did You Know that the IRS Can Give You a Tax Credit for Working?

- Using the EITC you can put up to **\$6,143 (2014)** or **\$6,242 (2015)** into your pocket.
- If you have earnings from work, all you need to do is file for it!



Need More Info on the Earned Income Tax Credit?

Contact

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

1-800-906-9887



- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

1-888-227-7669

- For more information about EITC visit
www.irs.gov/eitc

Individual Development Account

What is an Individual Development Account (IDA)?

- An IDA can help you on the way to financial independence.
- An IDA is great because **it will match every dollar as you save** for your goal.
- **Matched amounts start at \$1** and up for every dollar you save.

What Can an IDA Help You Fund?

- Home Ownership
- A **college education** including text books
- **Starting your own business** and other smaller goals that will get you the road to financial independence.
- IDA programs vary, so investigate the options available to you in your area.

Where Can You Learn More about IDAs?

- IDAs are not available in all states. To see if an IDA is offered in your area go to:
<http://idaresources.org/afigrantees>
- For more information on how IDAs can work for you, visit: <http://cfed.org/programs/idas/>

If Financial Independence is Right for You, What's Next?

Be S.M.A.R.T.!

- Author Paul J. Meyer developed the concept of **S.M.A.R.T. goals**.
- By creating S.M.A.R.T. goals for yourself, you can make your dream of financial independence **a reality**.

Being S.M.A.R.T. means

Specific – Have a precise goal

Measurable – How will you know if you are working towards your goal?

Attainable – Have a plan to achieve your goal

Realistic – Make sure your goal is something you are willing and able to work towards

Timely – Set a date for achieving your goal

You Have a Goal, Now What?

You may need a **budget** to help you make the best use of your money and to help you reach your goal.

A budget

- is a plan of your expenses and income for a period of time, like a month or a year; and,
- can help you to see how much money you have, where you're spending it, and where you can save.



Need Help Creating a Budget?

Contact your local Center for Independent Living. Find the location nearest you by going to:

www.ilru.org/html/publications/directory/index.html

For more budgeting information, check out:

www.aarp.org/money/budgeting-saving/

www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/index.html

Another Tool in Becoming Financially Independent is Creating a Bank Account!

Having a **savings** and a **checking** account at a bank allows you to access your money:

- A **savings account** will keep your money safe while you save for your goal!
- A **checking account** will give you quick access to your money to pay for bills and buying things while keeping your money safe.



Need More Information on Opening a Bank Account?

You have many **choices** when selecting a bank. Some banks offer **online services**, **direct deposit**, and **much more**. Ask about your options before you decide.

- **Bank on programs** work with banks and credit unions to make it easier for you to join:
<http://joinbankon.org>
- To find a **credit union** in your area, visit:
www.mycreditunion.gov/Pages/default.aspx



Credit: Another Tool for Becoming Financially Independent

- Having **good credit** means that banks and businesses will let you buy an item before you pay for it.
- If you have good credit, it's easier to get **loans** from the bank for large items, like a home or car, and to pay for **emergency expenses**.



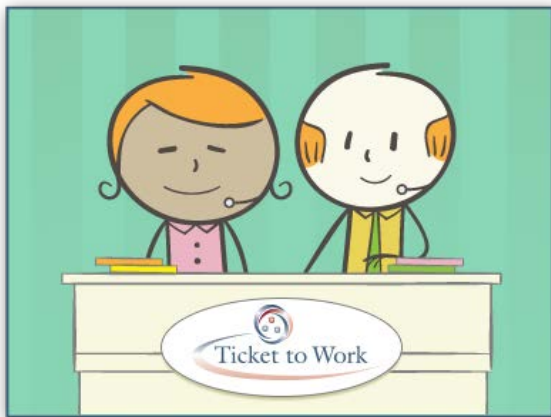
Financial Independence: Is It Possible for Me?

Financial Independence: Is it Possible for Me?

Yes, financial independence is possible! With hard work, planning, education, training, and support from Social Security and other resources, you can have a **good job, good career, and a better, self-supporting future.**

Take advantage of the resources we've talked about today. We're here to help you succeed in reaching financial independence!





Other Resources

Money Smart

The more you know,
the safer your money.



The **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) Money Smart** is a financial education program designed to help low- and moderate-income individuals increase their financial skills and create positive banking relationships.

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/index.html>

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)



Consumer Financial
Protection Bureau

The **CFPB**'s mission is to make markets for consumer financial products and services work for Americans — whether they are applying for a mortgage, choosing among credit cards, or using any number of other consumer financial products.

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov>

For More Information






Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

- 1-866-968-7842 (V)
- 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

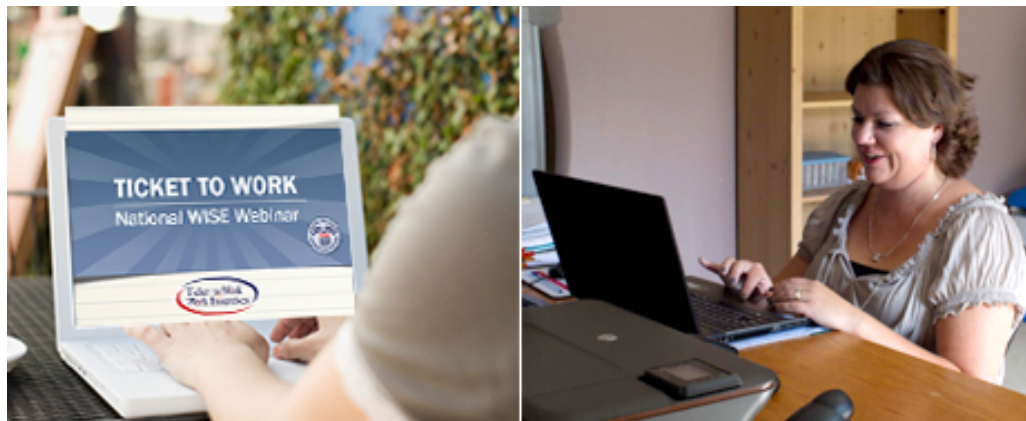
Visit:

- www.socialsecurity.gov/work

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-  Watch Ticket to Work Videos on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/choosework>

Join us for our upcoming webinar series!



**Working from Home with
Ticket to Work**

Date: March 25, 2015

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM EDT

**Register online at www.choosework.net/wise
or call 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 1-866-833-2967.**

Join us for our upcoming webinar series!



Working for Yourself with
Ticket to Work

Date: April 22, 2015

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 PM EDT

Register online at www.choosework.net/wise
or call 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 1-866-833-2967.

Questions

