



Ticket to Work: Choosing a Service Provider That's Right for You

Date: Wednesday,
February 22
Time: 3:00-4:30 pm ET

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Agenda

Moderator: Nancy Boutot, NDI Consulting

Presenters: Kendra Berry and Tina Skeel, Indiana Works; and Sandy Widener, Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Welcome and Introductions

Exploring Your Work Goals

Social Security Disability Benefits and the Ticket to Work Program

Meet Your Employment Team

Tips for Choosing a Service Provider That's Right for You

How Do You Find a Ticket to Work Service Provider?

Long-Term Employment Supports

Other Resources

Questions and Answers

Exploring Your Work Goals

What are Your Work Goals?

Take some time to think about these questions:

- What **type** of work do I like to do?
- What are my **interests**?
- What **kind of job** do I want now?
- What kind of job do I want **five years from now**?



What are Work Your Goals? (con't)

Take some time to think about these questions:

- What are my **long-term** career goals?
- **Where** do I want to work? At home? In an office? Outside? etc.
- Do I want to be **self-employed** or **work for someone else**?



What are Your Work Goals? (*con't*)

After you get a sense of the kind of job you want, ask yourself these questions:

- What type of **training** or **education** do I need to reach my goal?
- Will I need **assistance** at my workplace? Special equipment, a job coach, or a special schedule?
- Do I have a **particular job** in mind or do I need help **finding a job**?
- Do I need help with my **résumé** or **interview skills**?
- Do I need help to **understand** how working will affect my benefits?

Social Security Disability Benefits and Work Incentives

A green circle containing the text "SSDI".

SSDI

An orange circle containing the text "SSI".

SSI

Social Security Disability Benefit Programs



Social
Security
Disability
Insurance

Social Security Disability Benefit Programs



Supplemental
Security
Income

The Ticket to Work Program



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



What is the Ticket to Work Program?

Ticket to Work

- Is a **free** and **voluntary** Social Security program;
- Offers **career development** for people age 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits.



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.



Taking the Next Step (*con't*)

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

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

Visit:

- www.socialsecurity.gov/work



Meet Your Employment Team

Ticket to Work Service Providers

WIPAPABSSWFVREN

Who Can Help You Achieve Your Work Goal?

The Ticket to Work program offers you a **choice** of service providers:

- **Employment Networks (EN)**
- **Workforce ENs**
- **State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies**
- **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects**
- **Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)**

What is an Employment Network (EN)?

An EN is a private or public organization that contracts with Social Security to provide **free employment support services** to people eligible for Ticket to Work. EN services may include:

- **Career planning;**
- **Job leads and job placement;**
- **On-going employment support; and**
- **Benefits counseling.**



What is an Employment Network (EN)? (*con't*)

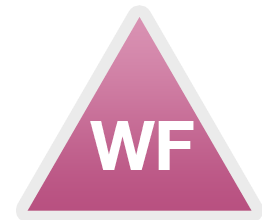
Who do ENs serve?

- Some ENs only provide services to their **local community**.
- Others provide services across **one or more states**.
- There are ENs that provide services **nationwide**.
- You will work with some ENs **in person**, some over the **phone**, and others via **email** or a **website**.



What is a Workforce EN?

Workforce ENs are ENs that are also part of the **state public workforce system**.



- Provide access to an array of employment support services, including **training programs** and special programs for **veterans** and **youth in transition**.
- A Ticket to Work participant who assigns their ticket to a Workforce EN will either work with a Workforce EN directly or via other providers in the workforce system, including **American Job Centers**.

What are State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies?

You may choose to work with your local VR.

- State VR agencies furnish a wide **variety of services** to help people with disabilities return to work.
- These services are designed to provide the client with the training and other services that are needed to **return to work**, to enter a **new line of work**, or to **enter the workforce for the first time**.



What Services Do VR Agencies Offer?

VR services may include

- Intensive training
- Education
- Rehabilitation
- Career counseling
- Job placement assistance
- Benefits counseling



Some states also have separate VR agencies that serve individuals who are **blind** and **visually impaired**.

What are Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects?



WIPA projects

- Are organizations within your community that provide **free benefits counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries** to help them make informed choices about work.
- Offer a range of services to help you **understand** your options if you choose to pursue work.
- Are staffed by **Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs)** who provide in-depth counseling about working, earning more money, and how working may affect your benefits.

How Can Working with a WIPA Project Help You?

WIPA projects can help you

- **Understand** the rules of specific Work Incentives and how they apply to you; and
- **Decide** whether the Ticket to Work program is right for you.



How Can Working with a WIPA Project Help You? (con't)

WIPA projects can help you

- **Understand** the potential benefits of employment as a person who receives disability benefits from Social Security while **dispelling the myths** about working;
- **Analyze** how work and earnings may affect your **SSI, SSDI, and other public benefits**; and
- **Understand** the services provided by a State VR agency or an EN, and how they might fit best with your needs.



What is Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)?

The PABSS program

- **Helps** people with disabilities who receive Social Security disability benefits and have a disability-related employment issue.

PABSS advocates provide

- **Legal support,**
- **Advocacy,** and
- Information to assist beneficiaries to **resolve** employment-related concerns.



What is Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)? (*con't*)

PABSS services may include

- **Navigating** organizations and services to support your efforts to work and **protect your rights** such as appealing decisions of a State VR agency or EN;
- Requesting **reasonable accommodations** in your workplace, college classes, training courses, and licensing programs;
- Other **disability-based legal issues** that are barriers to employment, such as transportation.



Tips for Choosing the Service Provider That's Right for You

Choosing a Service Provider That's Right for You

When you choose a service provider:

- Take the time you need to **feel confident** about the choice you are making.
- Make sure you understand the affect that working will have on your benefits.
 - Talk to an EN or VR that offers **benefits counseling** or contact your local WIPA project.
- It may be helpful to talk to several ENs and your State VR agency about your work goals **before** you assign your Ticket.

Questions to Ask Prospective Service Providers

As you talk to service providers, you may want to ask some of these questions:

- Do you **offer guidance** for participating in the Ticket to Work program?
- Do you serve others who **also have my disability**?
- What **types of jobs** has the service provider found for other people with similar experience/skill sets similar to yours?



What Do You Need Help with to Achieve Your Goals?

As you meet with potential service providers, be sure to talk about

- The services you need help with. Do you need help with **résumé writing? Interview skills? Benefits counseling?**
- **Why** are you looking for help with these services?
- Can this service provider help you **achieve your work goals?**



Keep These Questions in Mind

As you search for a service provider, ask yourself:

- Do you want to **assign your Ticket** to this EN or State VR agency?
- Did the staff seem **friendly** and **willing to work with you**?
- Does the EN or State VR agency **provide all the services** you need?
- How does the service provider **compare** to other providers you're considering?
- **Do you know of anyone** who has used this service provider?
 - What did he or she think?



How Do You Find a Ticket to Work Service Provider?

How Do You Find a Service Provider?

If you're ready to find a service provider:

- Use the **Find Help Tool** to find a service provider. You can search by:
 - City, State or ZIP code
 - Services offered
 - Disability types
 - Languages spoken
 - Provider type (EN, Workforce EN, VR, WIPA or PABSS)
- Visit the Find Help Tool online at www.choosework.net/findhelp; or
- Call the Ticket to Work Help line for a list of service providers.

Long-Term Employment Supports



Partnership Plus

If you found help with a VR, your case may be closed approximately 90 days after you start working.

- You may find that you need **continued support services** to help you keep your job and increase your earnings over time.
- VR agencies often **partner** with ENs that provide **job retention services** and other types of ongoing support.
- This arrangement is called **Partnership Plus**.



Partnership Plus

After VR services have ended, you can assign your Ticket to an **EN of your choice** to receive these additional services.

Partnership Plus **sets you up for success** by providing the support you need at each step to **financial independence**.





Partnership Plus

Supports Each Step to Self-Sufficiency

Fulfillment
Self-Sufficiency



How Can an EN Help You after You've Found Work?

Once you've found a job, an EN may help you

- Get **job accommodations**;
- **Communicate** with your employer;
- **Stay in touch** with Social Security;
- Stay **organized**;
- **Report** earnings; and
- **Find answers** to your questions about how working can affect your benefits.





Other Resources

Ticket to Work Beneficiary Worksheet

Once you receive a list of service providers, this worksheet may help you call, email or visit an EN or VR to find one that is right for you.

This worksheet gives you a list of questions to ask which may help you with your decision to assign your Ticket.

Download online at

<https://www.choosework.net/library/finding-EN-assigning-your-ticket-worksheet>



Finding an EN and Assigning Your Ticket Worksheet

Did you receive a list of service providers from the Ticket to Work Help Line or the Choose Work website's Find help tool? If so, this worksheet may help you call, email, or visit Employment Networks (EN) to find one that is right for you. This worksheet gives you a list of questions to ask and space to write your answers, which may help you with your decision to assign your Ticket.

The list of service providers that you received may also list your local Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS). A Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) project may also be listed, along with Employment Networks (EN) that serve your area. See the glossary on the back of this sheet to learn more about these providers, also known as your employment team.

Take the time you need to feel confident about the choice you are making. Before you assign your Ticket, make sure you understand the changes that working will have on your benefits. To learn how work can affect your Social Security disability benefits, housing assistance and Medicare or Medicaid, talk to an EN that offers benefits counseling services or contact a WIPA project. Benefits counseling can help you understand the rewards and risks that go with employment.

It may be helpful to talk to several prospective ENs about your employment goals, work history and other needs before you assign your Ticket.

It's time to get started. Keep this worksheet handy to help you remember the details of your conversations as you make your decision.

Ticket to Work is a free and voluntary program for people age 18 through 64 who receive disability benefits from Social Security.

The program offers free employment support services to help beneficiaries achieve financial independence. Thousands of people have used Ticket to Work and found incentives to find jobs, build careers, and leave benefits behind.

Name of Employment Network: _____

Phone Number: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____ Hours of Operation: _____

How did you contact the EN? (Select all that apply)

Email <input type="checkbox"/>	In Person <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone <input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Person Who Assisted You: _____
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Does the EN offer guidance on participating in the Ticket program? (List the EN's which services they offer and check all that apply.) A glossary of these terms is included on the back of this sheet.

<input type="checkbox"/> Career Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Job Leads	<input type="checkbox"/> Job Placement
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefits Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Job Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Employment Support
<input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Job Accommodations

Partnership Plus Fact Sheet

Learn more about **Partnership Plus**
online:

<https://www.choosework.net/library/partnership-plus>



For More Information



Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

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

Visit:

- www.socialsecurity.gov/work

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Date: Wednesday,
March 22, 2017

Time: 3:00-4:30 PM, ET

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Questions?



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