



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

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Time: 3 – 4:30 p.m.ET

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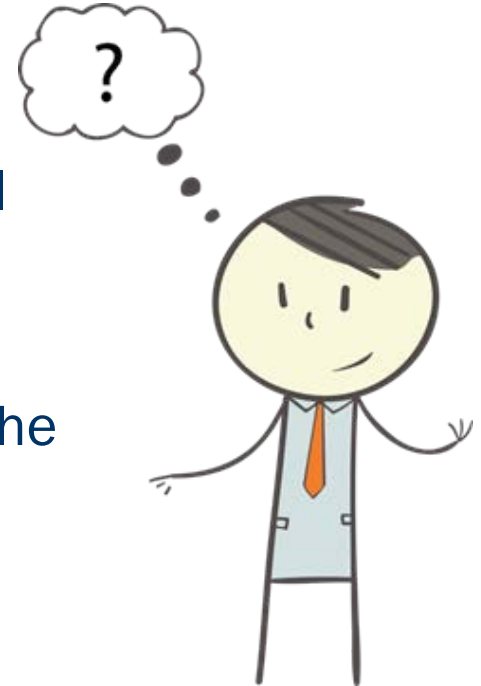
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# Agenda

## Welcome and Introductions

### Moderator:

- Brittany Thome, NDI Consulting

### Presenters:

- Mary Lynn ReVoir, American Dream Employment Network (ADEN)
- Tina Skeel, Indiana Works
- Sandy Widener, Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services



# Topics

- Social Security disability benefits and the Ticket to Work program
- Exploring your work goals
- Meet your employment team
  - American Dream Employment Network
  - Long-term employment supports
- Choosing a service provider that's right for you
- Next steps and the path to success
- Additional resources

# Social Security Disability Benefits

SSDISSI

# 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; and
- 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 *(Continued)*

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

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

Visit:

- [choosework.ssa.gov](http://choosework.ssa.gov)



# Exploring Your Work Goals



# Why Set Work Goals?

Work goals help you to focus on your pathway to a career.

Work goals help you:

- Measure your progress
- Hold yourself accountable
- Stay motivated and keep on track
- Increase your chance of success



# What Are Your Work Goals? *(Slide 1 of 3)*

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 5 years from now?



## What Are Your Work Goals? *(Slide 2 of 3)*

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?
- Do I want to be self-employed or work for someone else?



## What Are Your Work Goals? *(Slide 3 of 3)*

Once you know the kind of job you want, ask yourself what you need to succeed:

- Information about specific job options
- Training or education
- Resume or interview skills
- Understanding of how work affects benefits
- Reasonable accommodations and/or assistive technology





## Meet Your Employment Team!





# Who Can Help You Achieve Your Work Goal?

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

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



# What Are Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects?



WIPA projects:

- Provide free Benefits Counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries.
- Offer a range of services to help you understand your options.
- Are staffed by Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWIC) 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?

(Continued)



WIPA projects can help you:

- Understand the potential benefits of employment.
- Analyze how work and earnings may affect your SSI, SSDI, and other Federal and State benefits.
- Understand Work Incentives and how they apply to you.
- Understand the services provided by a State VR agency or an EN, and how they might fit best with your needs

# Who Do WIPA projects serve?



You can work with a WIPA project if you:

- Are working
- Have a job offer pending
- Are actively interviewing for jobs
  - Had an interview in the past 30 days
  - Have a job interview scheduled in the next 2 weeks
- Are age 14-25, not necessarily actively pursuing work

# What is an Employment Network (EN)?

An EN is an organization or an agency that provides free employment support services to people eligible for the Ticket program. The services help you prepare for, find, or maintain employment and may include:

- Career planning
- Job search and job placement
- Ongoing employment support
- Benefits Counseling
- Assistance with accommodations



# What is an Employment Network (EN)? *(Continued)*

Who may ENs serve?

- Their local community
- Regions or across one or multiple states
- The whole country

ENs may offer their services

- In person
- By phone
- Virtually, by email or website



# American Dream Employment Network (ADEN)



# ADEN Core Services for Ticketholders



- Career counseling
- Job search supports: developing or improving job skills, resume writing, job interview tips, and job search strategies
- Long-term support on the job
- Social Security Benefits Counseling
- Financial wellness
  - Referral to financial resources or services to build financial wellness



# ADEN Key Stakeholders



## Participants

- Job seekers who receive Social Security disability benefits and use the Ticket program

## Members

- Employment service providers across the country who help Ticketholders find and retain employment

## Employer Partners

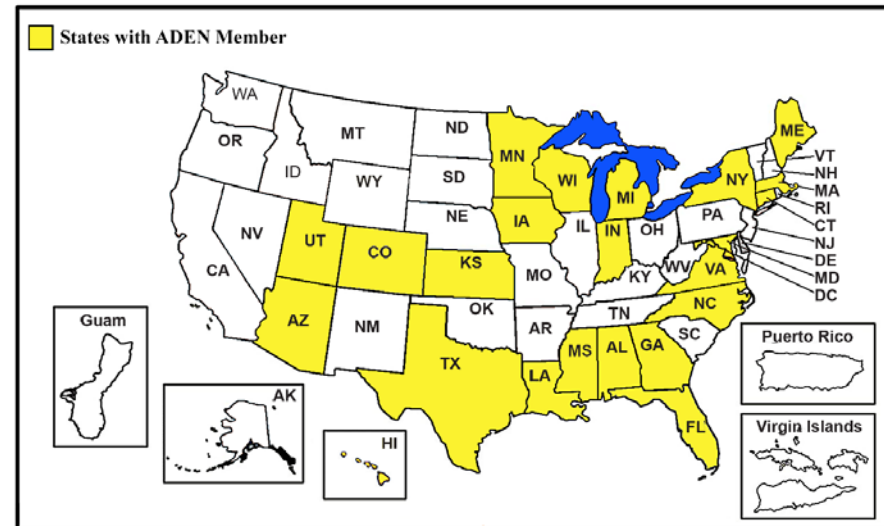
- Employers who have an interest in hiring and retaining qualified Ticketholders

# Service Provider Members and Partners

- There are 58 ADEN Members in 24 states and the District of Columbia.
- ADEN also provides virtual services across the U.S.

ADEN works closely with State VR agencies and has Partnership Plus agreements with:

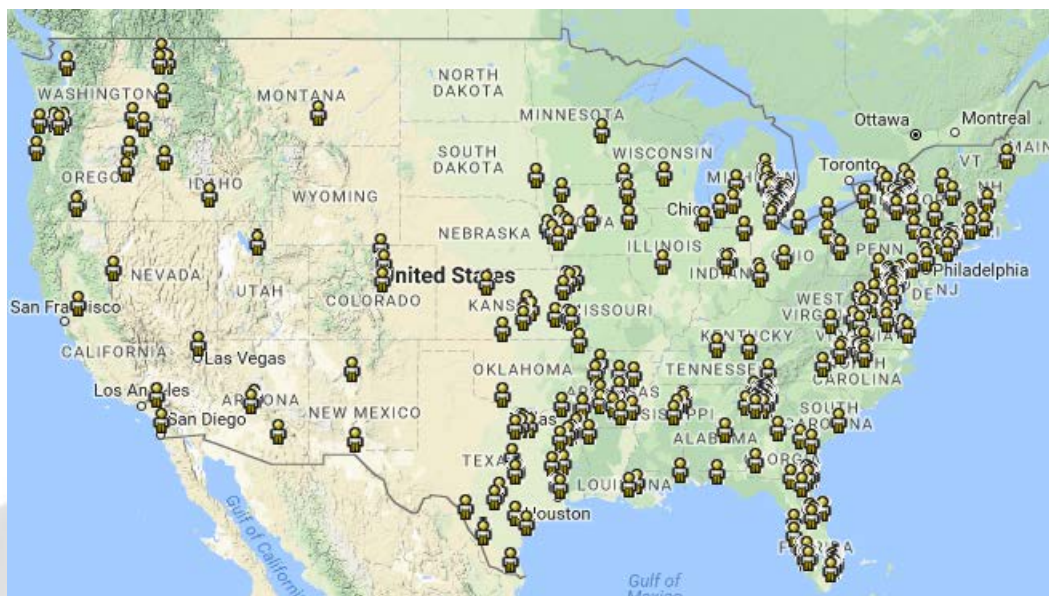
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Massachusetts
- Wisconsin



## Where Does ADEN Serve?

ADEN has developed employer relationships and currently partners with over 900 employers across the nation. 90% are federal contractors.

*Distribution of beneficiaries with assigned tickets*



# American Dream Employment Network (ADEN)

[www.AmericanDreamEN.org](http://www.AmericanDreamEN.org)

## ADEN Co-Directors

Mary Lynn ReVoir  
[mlrevoir@ndi-inc.org](mailto:mlrevoir@ndi-inc.org)

Kevin Nickerson  
[knickerson@ndi-inc.org](mailto:knickerson@ndi-inc.org)



[info@AmericanDreamEN.org](mailto:info@AmericanDreamEN.org)

844-687-2336

*For deaf/hard of hearing use Relay*



# What is a Workforce EN?

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

Workforce ENs provide a variety of support services including:

- Training
- Special programs for veterans and young adults



# What Are State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies?

State VR agencies furnish a variety of services to help people with disabilities:

- Return to work
- Enter a new line of work
- Enter the workforce for the first time



VR services may include:

- Intensive training or education
- Rehabilitation
- Career counseling
- Job placement
- Benefits Counseling

## What is Partnership Plus?

An agreement where State VR agencies may partner with ENs to provide a transition of services for those who need ongoing support.

- VR agencies typically close a case approximately 90 days after you start working
- An EN may offer continued support services to maintain employment and increase your earnings over time.





# Partnership Plus

EN services after VR case closure may include:

- Ongoing support services
- Job retention and career advancement
- Job coaching
- Transportation
- Benefits Counseling
- Wage reporting
- Job accommodation requests





# Partnership Plus Fact Sheet

Learn more about **Partnership Plus** online:  
[choosework.ssa.gov/library/partnership-plus](https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/partnership-plus)



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

The PABSS program:

- Helps people who receive Social Security disability benefits and have a disability-related barrier to employment.

PABSS advocates provide:

- Legal support
- Advocacy
- Information to assist beneficiaries resolve employment-related concerns with employers, Social Security, ENs, State VR agencies, WIPA projects or others.



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

PABSS services may include:

- Navigating organizations and services to support your effort to work and protect your rights
- Requesting reasonable accommodations in your workplace, college classes, training courses, and licensing programs
- Addressing other disability-based legal issues that are barriers to employment



# 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 time to feel confident about the choice you are making.
- Make sure you understand the affect working will have on your benefits.
  - Talk to an EN or VR agency that offers Benefits Counseling
- 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 have the same disability I have or a similar one?
- What types of jobs have you found for other people with similar experience/skill sets?
- Do you work with clients in-person or virtually?
- What happens after I assign my ticket?



# 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
  - Resume 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

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 anyone who has used this service provider?
  - What did he or she think?





# Next Steps and The Path to Success

## How Do You Find a Service Provider?

If you're ready to find a service provider, visit [choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp](https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp).

Search by:

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

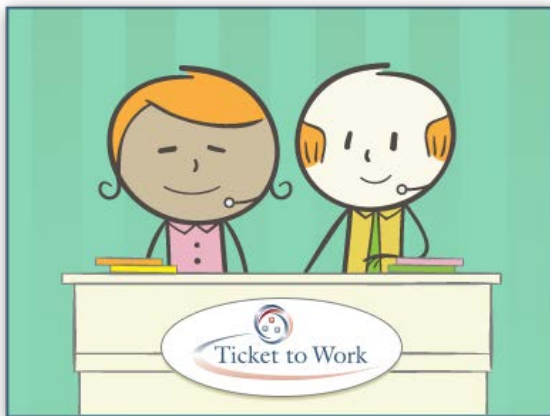


Or call the Ticket to Work Help line for a list of service providers.

# The Path to Success

The first step is to decide on your service provider. Then follow these next steps:

- Assign your Ticket
- Talk with a Benefits Counselor
- Work with your service provider to create a plan to achieve your goals and set a timeline
- Follow your plan
- Report your work and earnings
- Celebrate your success!



## Other Resources

## Choosing the Right EN for You

When you are ready to explore work, this worksheet may help you to find an EN or VR agency that that is right for you.

This resource gives you:

- Questions that can help you choose
- An explanation of the process and what to expect

Download the worksheet:

[choosework.ssa.gov/Assets/docs-materials/TTW-Choosing-EN\\_2015\\_508.pdf](http://choosework.ssa.gov/Assets/docs-materials/TTW-Choosing-EN_2015_508.pdf)

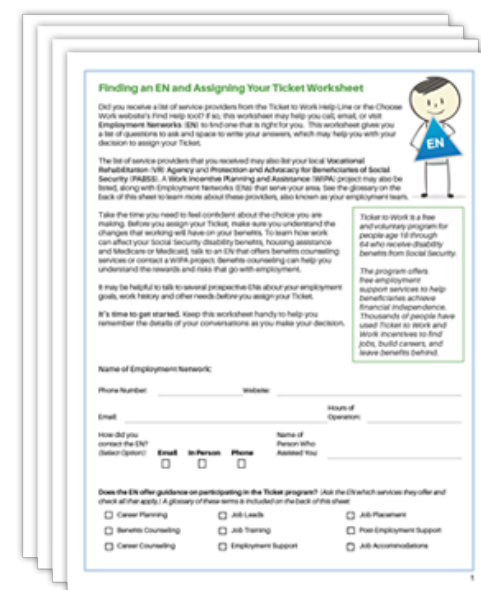
# Finding an EN and Assigning Your Ticket

Once you have 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:

[choosework.ssa.gov/library/finding-EN-assigning-your-ticket-worksheet](https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/finding-EN-assigning-your-ticket-worksheet)



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- Interested in learning more about the Ticket program, employment providers, and other topics? Subscribe to the Choose Work blog to get our weekly updates sent directly to your inbox:  
**[bit.ly/subscribeCW](http://bit.ly/subscribeCW)**.



## For More Information



### Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

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

### Visit:

- [choosework.ssa.gov](http://choosework.ssa.gov)

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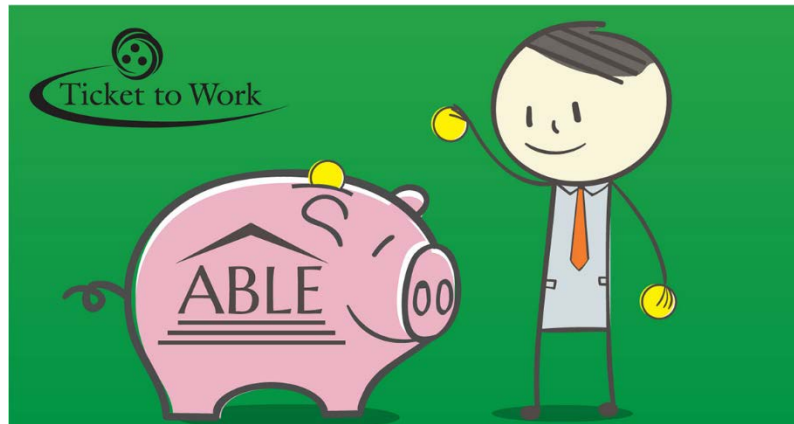
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**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**Time:** 3-4:30 PM ET

**Register online at [choosework.ssa.gov/wise](https://choosework.ssa.gov/wise)  
or call 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 (TTY)**

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# Tell Us What You Think!

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