

Ticket to Work: Support on Your Journey to Financial Independence

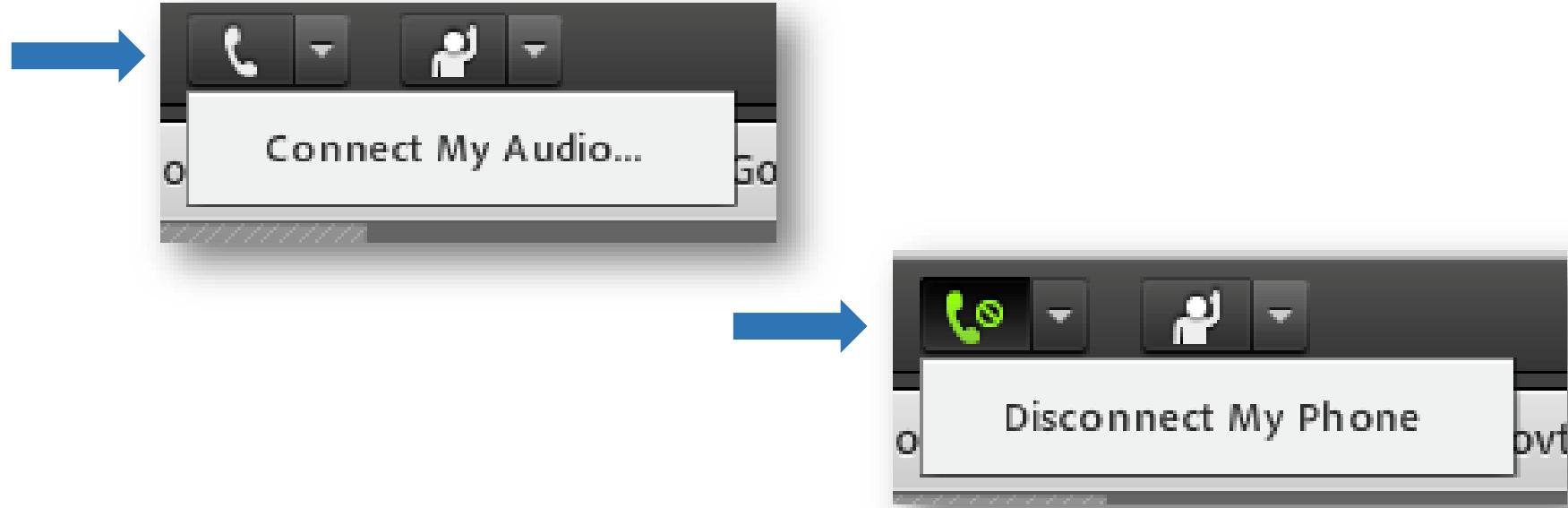
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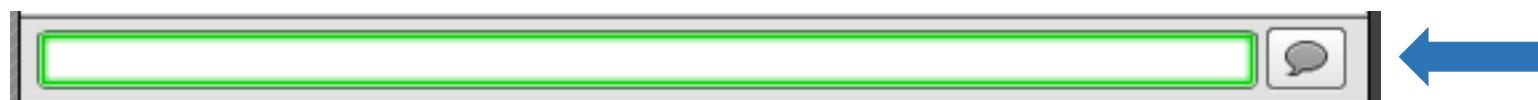
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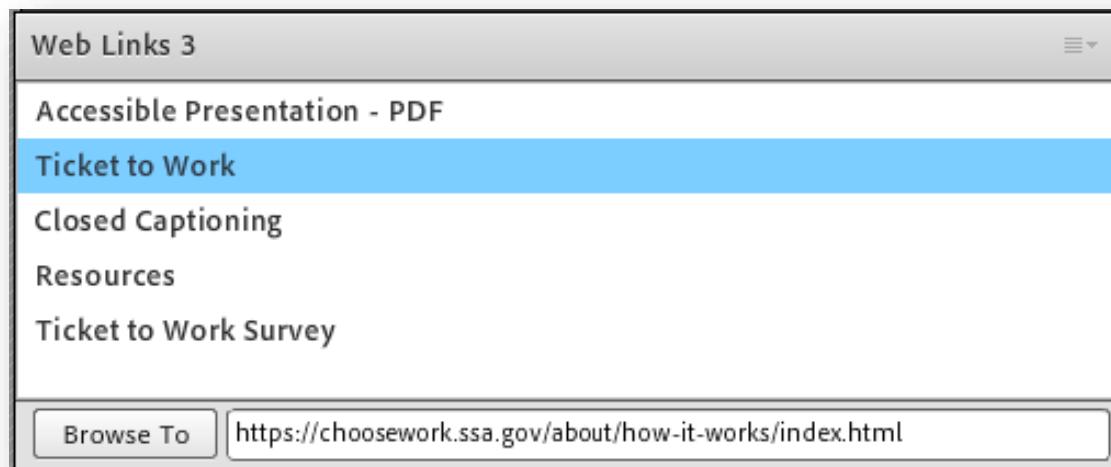
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Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Moderator Stacey Plizga, Ticket Program Manager

Presenters Windy Swearingin, Statewide Lead Disability Resource Coordinator
State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Larrisa Cummings, Alaska WIPA Project Director
UAA, Center for Human Development

Topics

- Social Security Disability Benefits
- Social Security's Ticket to Work Program
- Ticket to Work Service Providers
- Work Incentives and the Ticket to Work Program
- Phases of the Path to Work
- Putting It All Together
- Questions



Social Security Disability Benefits



Social Security Disability Benefit Programs



Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



Social Security's Ticket to Work Program



Starting Your Journey

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



Why Choose Work?

- Earn more income
- Gain financial 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
- Helps people with disabilities move toward financial independence
- Supports career development



What Services Does Ticket to Work Offer?

Services offered may include:

- Job coaching
- Job counseling
- Training
- Benefits counseling
- Job placement



Who Qualifies for the Ticket to Work Program?

You qualify if:

- You receive Social Security Disability benefits; and
- Are age 18 through 64

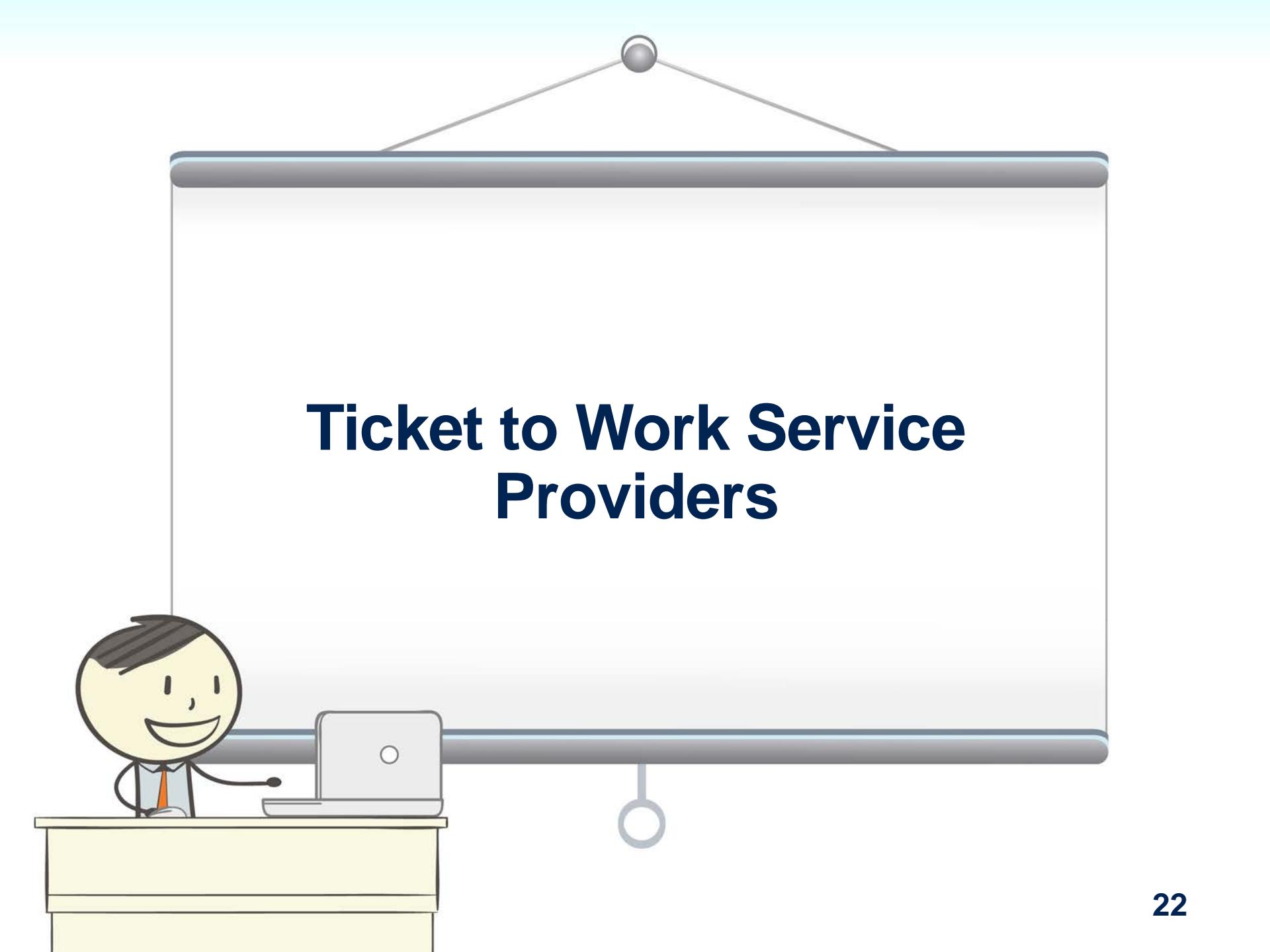


How Does It Work?

Example of a Path to Success

Every person's path may be different, but the following provides an example of a path to success:

- Speak with a WIPA counselor to help you decide if the Ticket to Work program is right for you
- If so, choose a service provider and assign your ticket
- Talk with a Benefits Counselor
- Create a plan and timeline to achieve your goals
- Follow your plan
- Report your work and earnings
- Celebrate your success!



Ticket to Work Service Providers



Finding Support



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

State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies

What are State 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



Employment Networks (ENs)

What is an EN?

An EN is an agency that has an agreement with Social Security to provide 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



Workforce (WF) ENs

What is a WF EN?

WF ENs are ENs that are also part of the state public workforce system. WF ENs provide a variety of support services including:

- Training
- Special programs for veterans and young adults

You may work directly with a WF EN or through other providers in the workforce system, like American Job Centers.



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

What is WIPA?

WIPA projects:

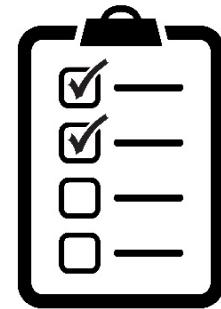
- Provide free benefits counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries
- Are staffed by Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) who provide in-depth counseling about working, earning money, and how earnings will affect your benefits, including Social Security and others you may receive.



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 a veteran
- Are age 14-25, not necessarily actively pursuing work



Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

What is PABSS?

The PABSS program:

- Helps people who receive Social Security disability benefits who 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, and others



Learn More About Service Providers

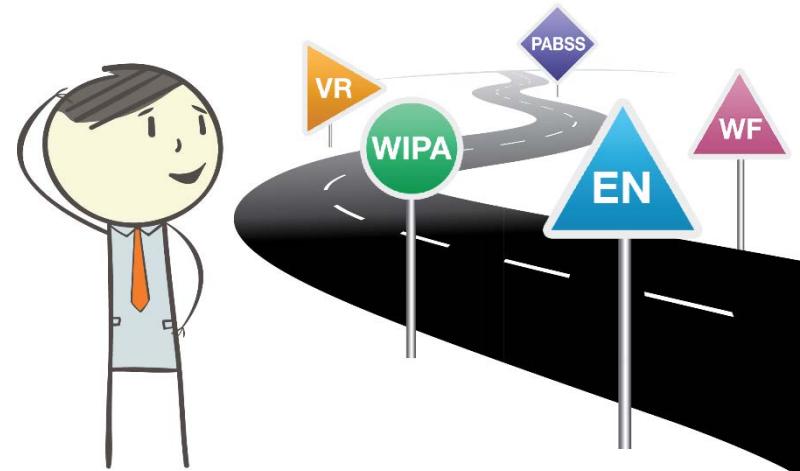
- Review Ticket to Work: Meet Your Employment Team:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/meet-your-employment-team>
- Find a service provider: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp>
- Call the Ticket to Work Help Line
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET:
 - 866-968-7842
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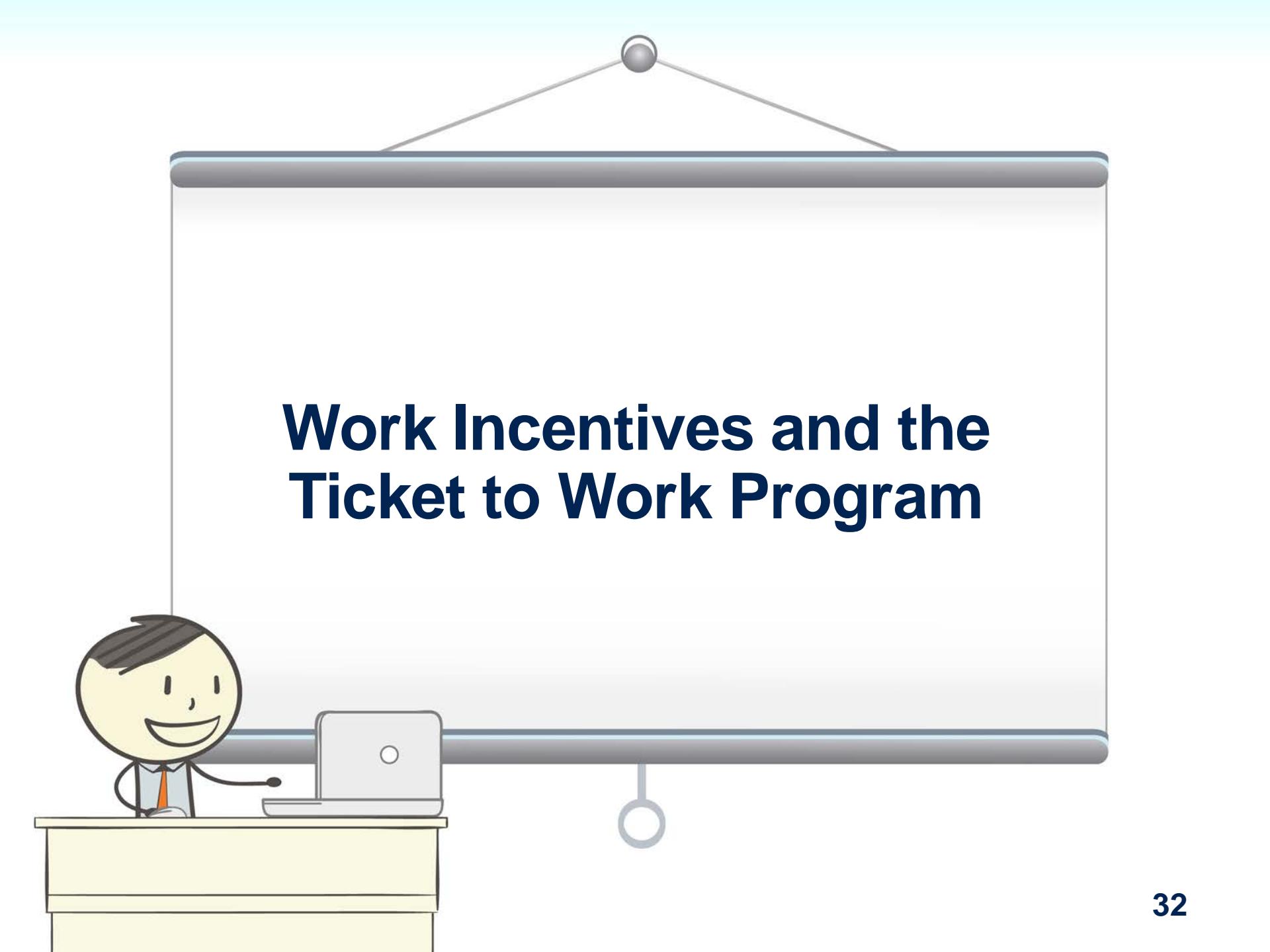


Choosing a Service Provider

Find helpful tips and questions to ask when selecting a Ticket to Work service provider:

- Finding an EN and Assigning Your Ticket:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/finding-EN-assigning-your-ticket-worksheet>
- Choosing the Right EN for You:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/choosing-the-right-employment-network-for-you>





Work Incentives and the Ticket to Work Program



Work Incentives

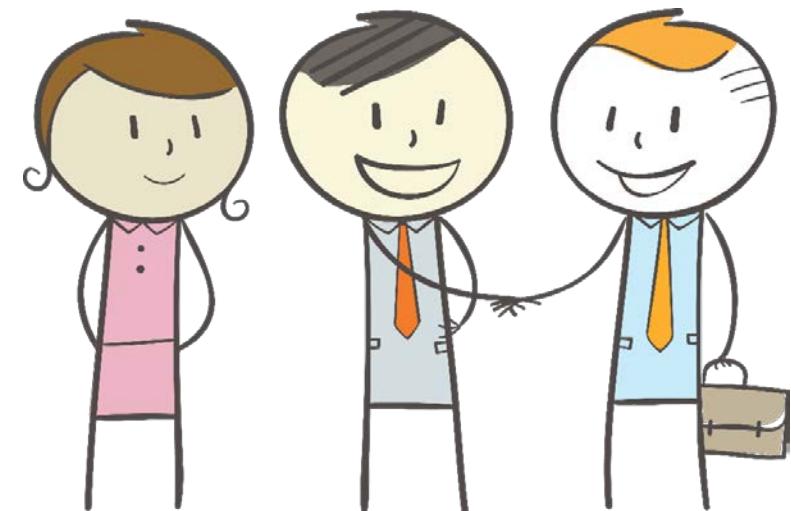
Social Security Work Incentives make it easier for people with disabilities to work and still receive medical benefits and, in some cases, cash payments from Social Security.



Work Incentives (continued)

Work Incentives are special Social Security 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



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)

SSI recipients, you may qualify for continued Medicaid coverage when your benefit payment stops if you:

- Have been eligible for an SSI cash 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. If your medical costs are higher than the average for your state, Social Security may authorize a higher threshold for your earnings so you can keep this protection.



Medicaid Buy-in Programs

Most states allow you to purchase Medicaid under a **Buy-in Program** if you are working and have a disability under Social Security Rules. Each of these programs is different, but most allow you to have more savings than other Medicaid programs and permit you to buy Medicaid with a modest premium.

You should contact your state Medicaid agency to find out the rules for residents of your state.



Extended Period of Medicare Coverage

Most SSDI beneficiaries with disabilities who work continue to receive at least 93 consecutive months of:

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

This is called Continuation of Medicare Coverage or the Extended Period of Medicare Coverage.

The 93 months start the month after the last month of your Trial Work Period.



Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work

After Medicare coverage ends due to work, you can purchase Medicare hospital and medical insurance if you continue to have a disability.

You are eligible to buy Medicare coverage if:

- You have a disabling impairment; and
- Your Medicare stopped due to work.

You will not be eligible again for free Medicare Part A if you turn 65 or become entitled to disability benefits again.



Medicare for People with Disabilities Who Work

(continued)

You may also be eligible for a program that helps pay your Medicare Part A monthly premium.

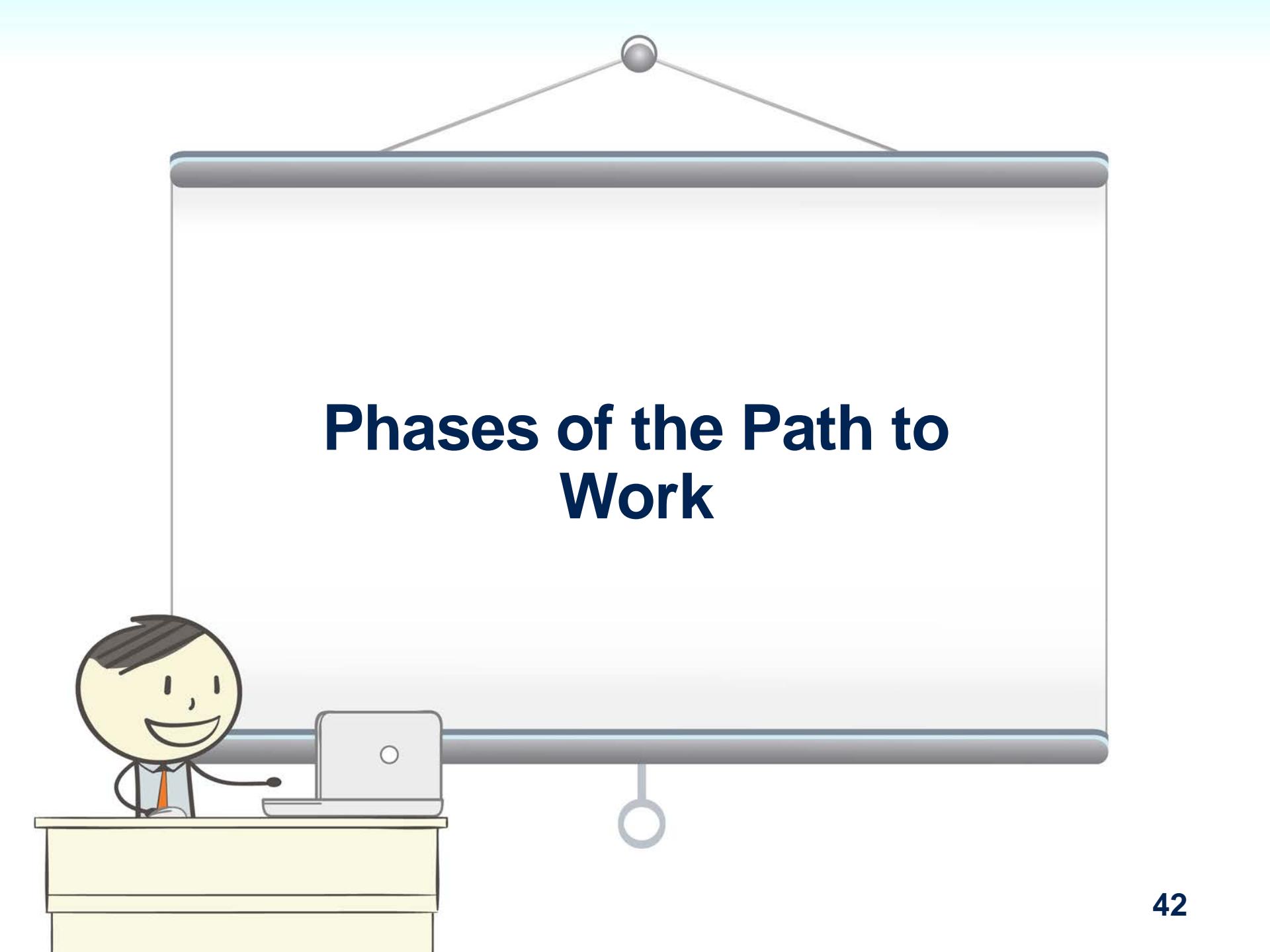
To be eligible for this help, you must:

- Continue to have a disabling impairment;
- Sign up for hospital insurance (Part A);
- Have limited income and limited resources; and
- Not already be eligible for Medicaid.



Learn More About Work Incentives

- Review The Red Book – A Guide to Work Incentives:
www.ssa.gov/redbook
- Learn more on Choose Work's website:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/work-incentives>
- Read Choose Work's Work Incentives Wednesdays blog series:
<http://bit.ly/blogWIW>
- Attend future WISE webinars:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/webinars-tutorials>



Phases of the Path to Work



Phases of the Path to Work

The Phases of the Path to Work may include the following:

- Phase 1: Learning About Ticket to Work
- Phase 2: Getting Ready to Work
- Phase 3: Getting a Job
- Phase 4: Managing Your Job



Phase 1: Learning About Ticket to Work

Important information to consider when you're receiving Social Security disability benefits.

- Work Your Way to a Better Future
- Myths About Work and Medicare or Medicaid
- The Medical Review Myth
- The Myth About Reapplying for Benefits
- Is Work the Right Choice?



Learn more about Phase 1 – Learning About Ticket to Work:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/your-path-to-work>

Phase 2: Getting Ready to Work

This phase helps you determine your own work goals, then find a Ticket to Work service provider that can help you.

- Set a Goal and Work Toward It
- Choosing the Right Service Provider
- Using the Find Help Tool
- Need Help with Choosing a Service Provider?



Learn more about Phase 2 – Getting Ready to Work:

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/your-path-to-work/ready-to-work.html>

Phase 3: Getting a Job

This phase takes you step-by-step through the process of getting ready to enter the workforce, including being prepared for interviews.

- Networking as a Way to Success
- Brushing up on Your Work Skills
- Making an Important First Impression with Your Resume
- Finding and Applying for the Right Job
- Interview Prep Tips and Tricks
- What You Need to Know About Job Accommodations
- Tips for Acing a Job Interview
- Leaving a Good Impression After the Interview
- Keep Motivated While Looking for Work!



Learn more about Phase 3 – Getting a Job:

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/your-path-to-work/getting-a-job.html>

Phase 4: Managing Your Job

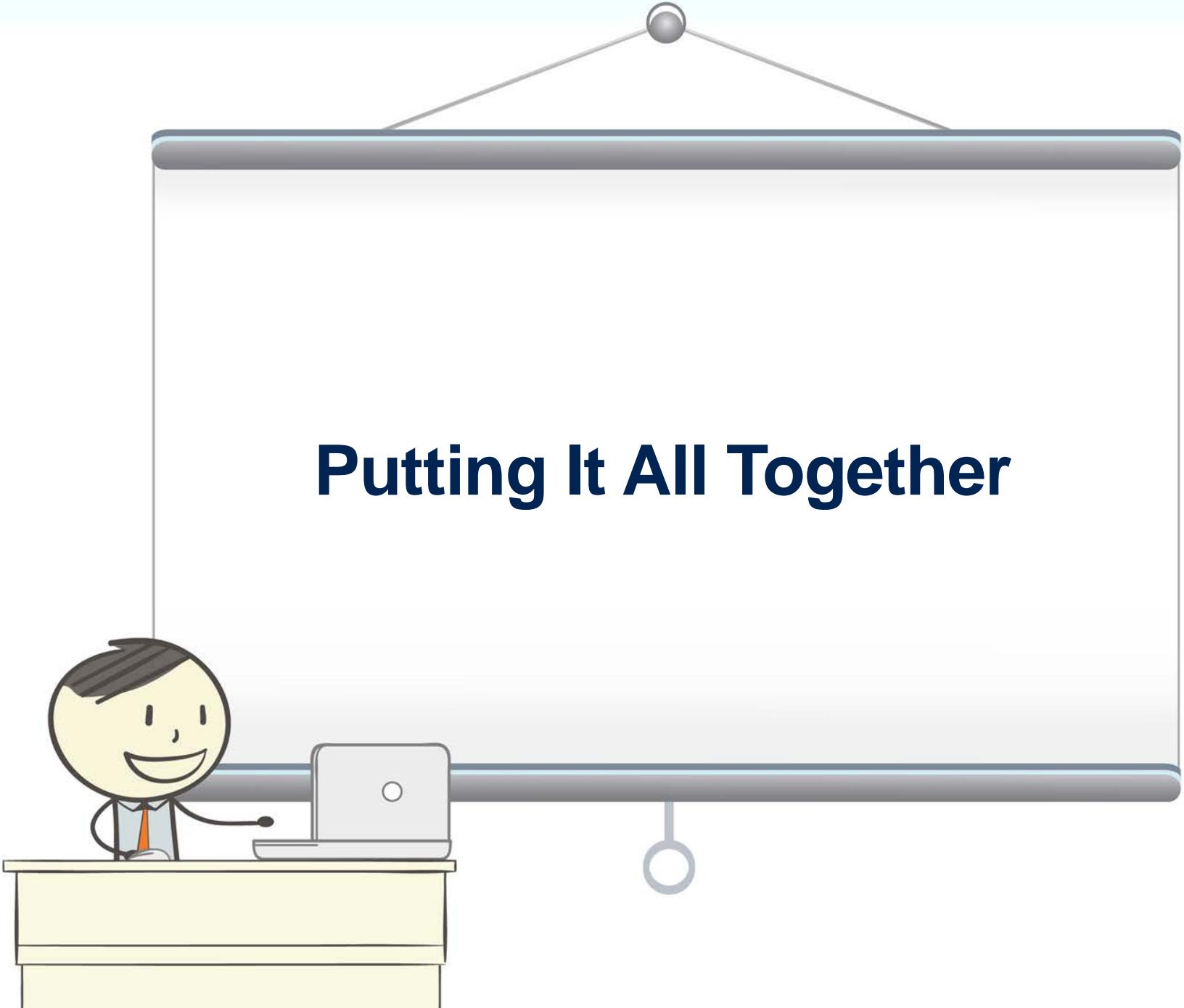
This phase provides information to keep you on the path to a better future once you are hired, including starting your job and managing money.

- Get Started Working in the Right Way
- What Happens to Social Security Disability Benefits While Working?
- Managing Money
- Tips on Opening a Bank Account and Starting a Budget
- Preventing an Overpayment Situation
- Time to Talk About Timely Progress
- Maintaining Services through Partnership Plus



Learn more about Phase 4 – Managing Your Job:

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/your-path-to-work/managing-your-job.html>



Putting It All Together

Putting It All Together: Question 1

You have made the decision that work is the right step for you to gain independence.

Who can help you achieve your work goals?



Putting It All Together: Question 1 – Answer

Ticket to Work service providers may be able to help you achieve your work goals! As we previously discussed, service providers like State VR agencies, ENs, WIPA projects, and PABSS organizations offer you access to supports, including:

- Benefits and Work Incentives information
- Job search assistance
- Resume and interview preparation
- Transition supports, like requesting reasonable accommodations
- ...and more!

Search for service providers using the Find Help tool at:

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp>

Putting It All Together: Question 2

You're now ready to start your path to work.

What questions can you ask yourself to find a job that's right for you?



Putting It All Together: Question 2 – Answer

Some questions to ask yourself include:

- What type of work do I like to do?
- What am I enthusiastic about?
- What kind of job do I want now?
- What kind of job do I want 5 years from now?
- What are my long-term career goals?
- Where do I want to work?

Learn more in our recent blog post:

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2018-05-31-do-you-know-what-kind-of-job-you-want>



Get Started!

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

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

Visit: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

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 Subscribe to our YouTube channel: [@choosework](https://www.youtube.com/choosework)

 Follow us on LinkedIn: [@ticket-to-work](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ticket-to-work)



Additional Resources

- Learn about work plans:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/faq-planning-your-employment-goals-with-the-ticket-to-work-program>
- Discover how others have found success:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/success-stories>
- Find tips and resources:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/blog>
- Learn more about the Ticket program:
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/faqs>



For More Information

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Visit the Ticket to Work site:

- <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>



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Ticket to Work and Reasonable Accommodations

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