



Helping You Today  
So You Succeed Tomorrow



# Ticket to Work: Support on Your Journey to Financial Independence

**Date:**  
Wednesday,  
June 27, 2018

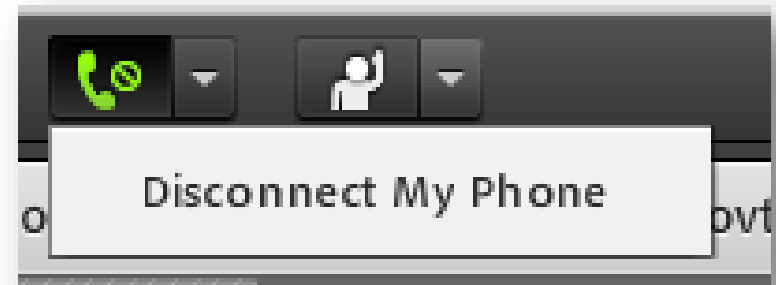
**Time:**  
3 – 4:30 PM ET



Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.

# Accessing Today's Webinar (Slide 1 of 3)

You can manage your audio using the audio option at the top of your screen (it will look like a microphone or telephone icon).



# Accessing Today's Webinar (Slide 2 of 3)

All attendees will be muted, and we encourage you to attend by choosing “**listen only**” from the audio menu. This will enable the sound to be broadcast through your computer, so please make sure your **speakers are turned on or your headphones are plugged in.**

A screenshot of a 'Join Audio Conference' dialog box. The title bar says 'Join Audio Conference'. The main text asks 'How would you like to join the meeting's audio conference?'. There are two radio button options: 'Dial-out [Receive a call from the meeting]' which is selected, and 'Dial-in to the Audio Conference via Phone'. Under the 'Dial-out' option, there is a dropdown menu showing '+1 (USA)' and an empty text input field. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Join' and 'Listen Only'. A blue arrow points to the 'Listen Only' button from the right side of the slide.

Join Audio Conference

How would you like to join the meeting's audio conference?

☒ Dial-out [Receive a call from the meeting]

+1 (USA)

☐ Dial-in to the Audio Conference via Phone

Join Listen Only

# Accessing Today's Webinar (Slide 3 of 3)

If you do not have sound capabilities on your computer or prefer to listen by phone, dial:

Toll-Free number: **800-832-0736**

Access code: **4189148#**

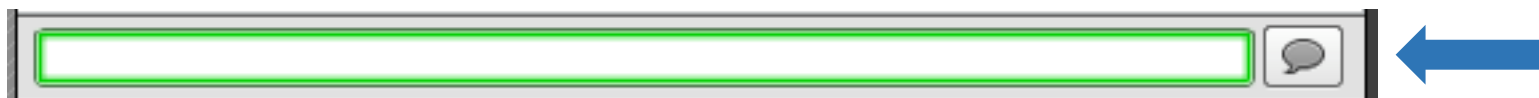
# Webinar Accessibility

# Captioning

- Real-time captioning is provided during this webinar.
- The captions can be found in the **Captioning pod**, which appears below the slides.
- You can also access captioning online:  
[www.captionedtext.com/client/event.aspx?CustomerID=1038&EventID=3639207](http://www.captionedtext.com/client/event.aspx?CustomerID=1038&EventID=3639207)

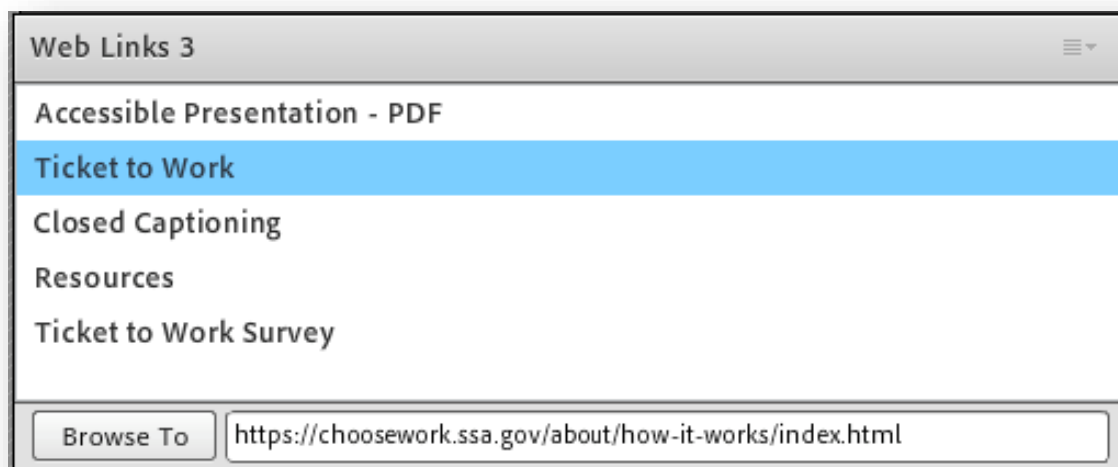
# Questions and Answers (Q&A)

- For Q&A: Please use the **Q&A pod** to submit any questions you have during the webinar, and we will direct the questions accordingly during the Q&A portion.
- If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing questions to [webinars@choosework.ssa.gov](mailto:webinars@choosework.ssa.gov).



# Webinar Online Resources

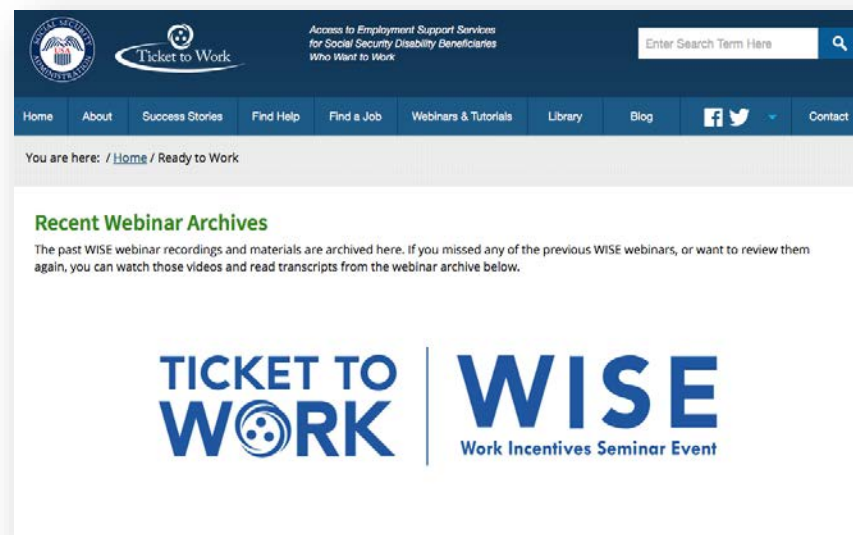
- Please use the **Web Links pod** to direct you to the resources presented during today's webinar.
- If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may email [webinars@choosework.ssa.gov](mailto:webinars@choosework.ssa.gov) for a list of available resources.





# Archived Events

**Please note:** This webinar is being recorded, and the archive will be available within two weeks on the Choose Work website at <http://bit.ly/WISEarchives>.



# Technical Assistance

If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the Q&A box to send a message or you may email [webinars@choosework.ssa.gov](mailto:webinars@choosework.ssa.gov).



# 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

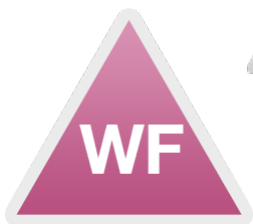
Every person's path may be different, but the following provides an example of a path to success:

- 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



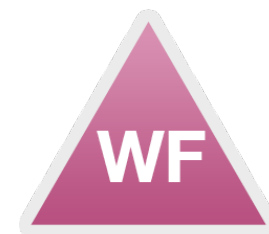
# Workforce (WF) ENs

## 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:

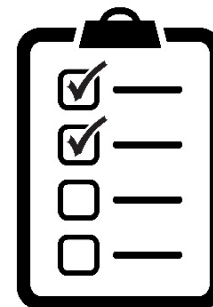
- Provide free benefits counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries
- Are staffed by Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) who provide in-depth counseling about working, earning money, and how earnings will affect your benefits, including Social Security and others you may receive.



# 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

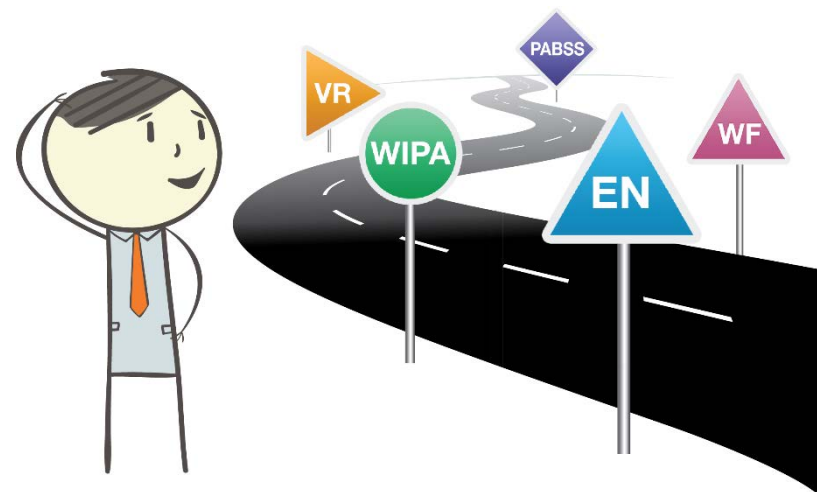
- Review Ticket to Work: Meet Your Employment Team:  
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/meet-your-employment-team>
- Find a service provider: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp>
- Call the Ticket to Work Help Line  
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET:
  - 866-968-7842
  - 866-833-2967 (TTY)



# 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

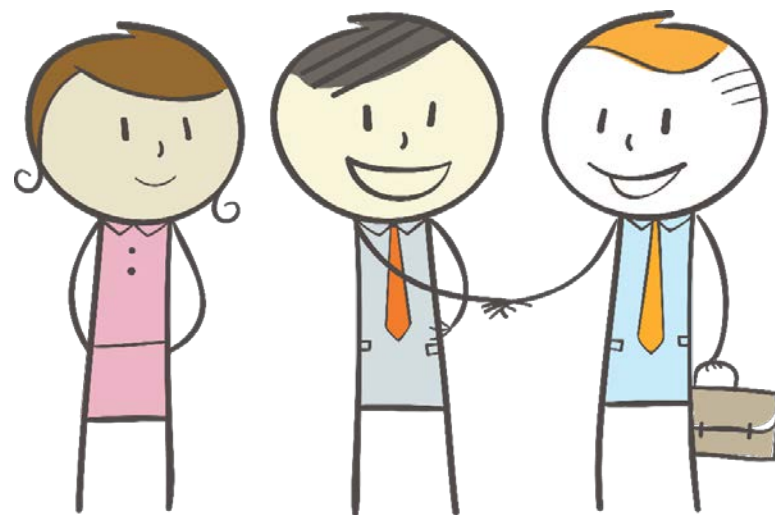
Social Security Work Incentives make it easier for people with disabilities to work and still receive medical benefits and, in some cases, cash payments from Social Security.



# 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](http://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/>

## Connect:

 Like us on Facebook: [@choosework](#)

 Follow us on Twitter: [@chooseworkSSA](#)

 Subscribe to our YouTube channel: [@choosework](#)

 Follow us on LinkedIn: [@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

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line  
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET:

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

Visit the Ticket to Work site:

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



# Join Us for Our Next WISE Webinar!



**Ticket to Work and Reasonable Accommodations**

**Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2018**

**Time: 3 – 4:30 p.m. ET**

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



# Questions?



# Tell Us What You Think!

Please remember to take our webinar survey!

A link will pop up after the webinar, or visit:  
[https://choosework.ssa.gov/surveys/wise.](https://choosework.ssa.gov/surveys/wise)

