



Helping You Today
So You Succeed Tomorrow



Setting Goals with Ticket to Work

Date:
Wednesday,
January 23,
2019

Time:
3 – 4:30 PM ET



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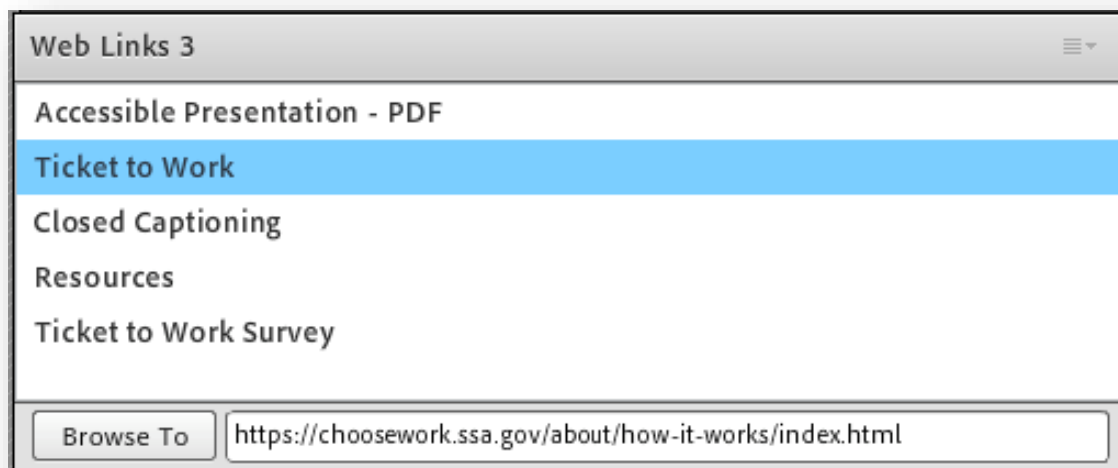
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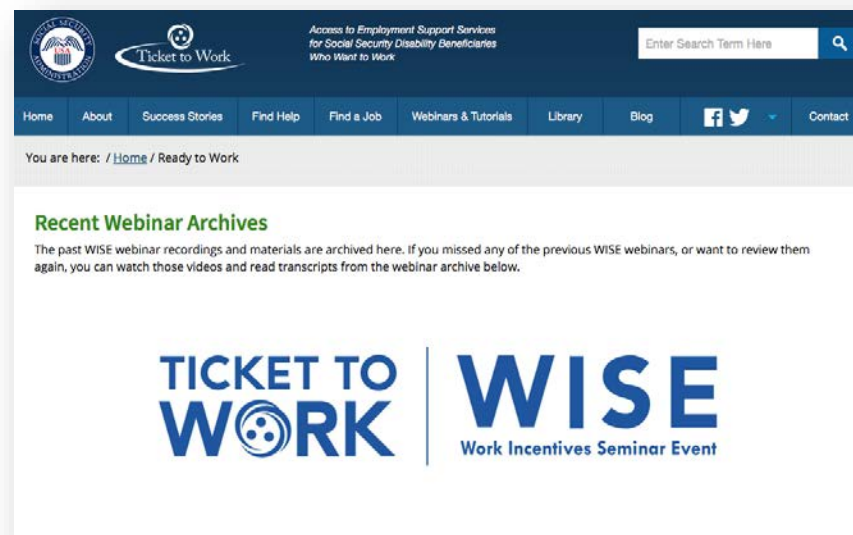
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Presenters

Welcome and Introductions

Moderator: Stacey Plizga, Ticket Program Moderator

Presenters: Tina Skeel and Kathleen Bowers, Aspire Indiana

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us! Today, we'll discuss and answer questions related to:

- Social Security disability benefits
- Social Security's Ticket to Work program and service providers
- Setting SMART goals
- Work plans



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
- Meet new people
- Learn new skills
- Gain financial independence



What Is the Ticket Program?

Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) program:

- Is Social Security's national employment program
- Supports career development for people with disabilities who want to work
- Is for Social Security disability beneficiaries ages 18 through 64
- Is free and voluntary



What Services Does the Ticket Program Offer?

Services offered may include:

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



How It Works

If you receive benefits:

- Choose a provider and assign your Ticket
- Work with your provider
- Find work and reduce (and when possible, eliminate) your reliance on Social Security disability benefits
- Replace your disability benefits with earnings from work

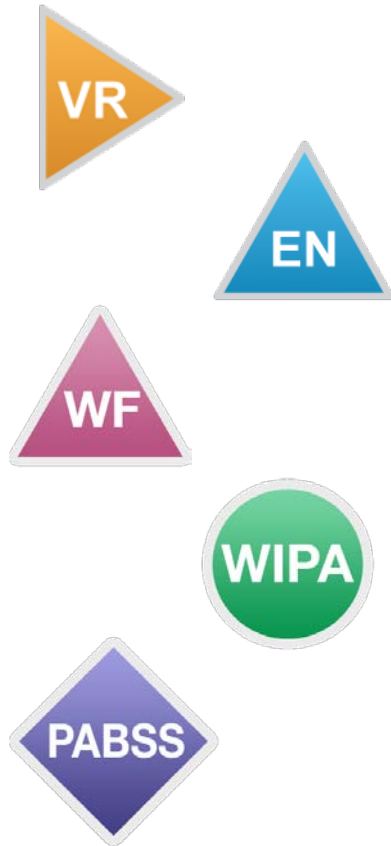


Ticket Program Service Providers

Find Help to Achieve Your Work Goals



Introduction to Ticket to Work Service Providers



- 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) Agency

A State VR agency furnishes a wide variety of services to help people with disabilities return to work, enter new lines of work, or enter the workforce for the first time.

- Some states have separate VR agencies that serve individuals who are blind and visually impaired



Employment Networks (ENs)

An EN is a private or public organization that has an agreement with Social Security to provide free employment support services to people eligible for the Ticket program.

- Many state public workforce systems, such as American Job Centers, are Workforce ENs



Supports and Services That May Be Provided

- Career planning or counseling
- Job search and job placement assistance
- State VR agencies may provide training programs
- Special programs for veterans and youth in transition
- Ongoing employment support
- Assistance with job accommodations
- Benefits counseling and information about Work Incentives



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

WIPA projects:

- Are staffed by Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs)
 - CWICs provide free, in-depth counseling about:
 - Working
 - Earning money
 - How working will affect benefits



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects (Continued)

To qualify for WIPA services, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be actively working
- Have a job offer pending
- Be actively interviewing for jobs, have had an interview in the past 30 days, or have an interview scheduled in the next 2 weeks
- Be a veteran
- Be age 14 – 25, not necessarily actively pursuing work



Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS organizations help Social Security disability beneficiaries who have disability-related employment problems.

PABSS organizations and advocates provide:

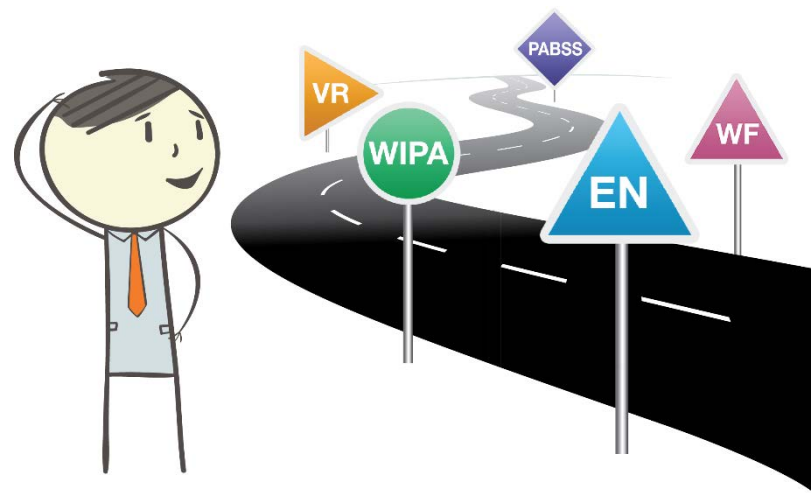
- Legal support
- Advocacy
- Information to assist beneficiaries with removing disability-related barriers to employment with employers, Social Security, ENs, State VR agencies, WIPA projects, and others



Choosing a Service Provider

The Choose Work website offers many tools to help find the right EN for you!

- Finding an EN
<http://bit.ly/Finding-an-EN>
- Choosing the Right EN
<http://bit.ly/Choosing-the-right-EN>



Find Help Tool

- Search for service providers at choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp
- Provides a directory of all Ticket program service providers, including:
 - VR agencies
 - ENs
 - WIPA projects
 - PABSS organizations



Questions?



Setting SMART Goals



SMART Goals

S

Specific

Clearly
define
goals

M

Measurable

Include
exact
amounts
and dates

A

Achievable

Make
sure goals
are
realistic

R

Relevant

Ensure
goals line
up with
personal
values

T

Time-Bound

Include
deadlines
to reach
targets

The Power of SMART Goals

Goal setting:

- Keeps you focused and accountable
- Reminds you of steps that need to be taken to achieve success
- Helps you recognize and celebrate accomplishments
- Creates opportunity to review and revise efforts if necessary

SMART Goal Example

“To find work, I will contact at least 5 employers each week, apply for at least 2 open positions, and follow up with my EN or VR counselor every month.”

- **Specific:** Includes actions to help make progress toward the goal
- **Measurable:** At least one action to make progress toward goal
- **Achievable:** Steps that are reasonable and likely to help you achieve your overall goal
- **Relevant:** Actions are related to your goal of finding work
- **Time-bound:** Having a set schedule

Reviewing and Revising Your Goals

- As you pursue your goals, evaluate how effective your plan is
- Review your progress to make sure you're following the action steps
- Consider any additional actions that you may need to take:
 - Training opportunities
 - Volunteer work
 - Networking
 - Working with a mentor

Short- and Long-Term Goals

- Another strategy is to identify a large, long-term goal that you want to work towards as well as short-term goals that you can reach on the path to the larger goal
- Celebrating achievement of small goals may help keep you motivated and on track to reach your large goals



ABCs of Short- and Long-Term Work Goals

- **A job:** Finding a job that's relevant to your career goal to learn some of the basic roles and responsibilities of the industry
- **A Better job:** Looking for a promotion or applying for a more advanced position in the same field helps you build on your existing skills and learn new ones
- **Career development:** Your career progress includes all relevant experience you gain as you look for higher positions and the skills that make you an asset to an employer

Example: Short- and Long-Term Goals

- **Long-term goal:** Become a general or assistant general manager of a retail store
- **Short-term goals:**
 - Find work in a retail store
 - Build customer service skills
 - Gain experience with cashier responsibilities
 - Earn promotion to shift manager
 - Improve and build on skills you've learned
 - Learn leadership and decision-making skills
 - Learn computer systems for money management, scheduling, and inventory

Planning Your Employment Goals with the Ticket to Work Program



Working with Your Ticket Program Service Provider

When working with an EN, Workforce EN, or State VR agency, you'll discuss your employment goals, previous experience, and any supports and service you may need to succeed.

- You will discuss:
 - Short- and long-term work and earnings goal
 - Your recent work and earnings history
 - Benefits counseling to help you understand how earning income will affect your benefits
 - Education, training, or certifications you may need
 - Accommodations you may need to succeed in the workplace

Work Plans

Through the Ticket program, you will work with a service provider to identify your employment goals, supports, and services you need to succeed.

You and your service provider will work together to create a work plan which may be called one of following depending on the type of service provider:

- Individualized Work Plan (IWP)
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Individualized Employment Plan (IEP)



Work Plan: Career Planning

You will discuss short- and long-term employment goals and:

- Amount of earnings you plan to make when you start working and how much you expect to earn when your work plan ends
- Additional supports and services you'll need to succeed



Work Plan: Specific Supports and Services

Your service provider will describe short- and long-term supports they will provide to you. These may include:

- Short-term supports:
 - Career counseling
 - Job search and job placement assistance
 - Resume writing and interview prep
 - Training opportunities
- Long-term supports:
 - Assistance in becoming stable in and keeping your job
 - Counseling to help you get promoted and advance in your career

Work Plan: An Agreement

- Your work plan is like a contract
- Your service provider agrees to invest time and resources to help you find work and maximize your earnings
- You agree to follow the plan and make **timely progress** toward your goals
- The work plan must be **written and signed** to show that you and your service provider both agree



Timely Progress

- Timely progress means actively pursuing your employment goals
- Social Security reviews your efforts regularly to determine if you are making progress toward your work goals within timeframes that your service provider explains to you



What Are Your Responsibilities?

- Your part of the agreement involves meeting responsibilities that your service provider will explain to you and help you meet
- These differ for everyone depending upon your benefits and what is written in your plan. They generally include:
 - Making timely progress in the program through a combination of education, training, and earnings
 - Reporting your earnings to Social Security on time
 - Reporting any change in status (employment, marital, living arrangements, etc.) to Social Security

Reaching Your Work Goals



Reaching Your Goals

Ask yourself these questions:

- What are my career goals for 2019?
- Are my goals SMART goals?
- What are the next steps I need to take to achieve my goals?
- Who can help me achieve my goals?



Reaching Your Goals with Ticket to Work

- Connect with a Ticket program service provider
 - Use the Find Help tool: choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp
- Write down your work goals and create a plan of action
 - Learn more about work plans: <http://bit.ly/WorkPlansFAQ>
- Check in with your EN or State VR agency regularly
- Celebrate your victories and progress!



Achieving Goals: Walter's Story



Walter's Story

- Walter's goals included working at a local university
- With help from his Ticket program service provider he:
 - Developed the soft skills he needed
 - Gained career experience
 - Landed the job he always wanted
 - Became the first person in his family to own a home!



Walter's Story (Continued)

“For me, work is not all about the paycheck,” he says. “It's about the other things that go with the job. I like being part of the Cornell community ... everyone is so nice. The surroundings are beautiful, and I've met people from many different cultures too. Now, I get to go to work every day in a place where I'm comfortable ... where I can be myself.”

Walter

A Ticket to Work Success Story



<https://choosework.sa.gov/library/walter-success-story>

Questions?



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Attend a Career Fair in August

Read today's [blog post](#) to learn about national and local opportunities to attend a career fair in August.

Whether in person or online, career fairs are an excellent way to meet employers and job search. Each month, many career fairs for veterans, individuals with disabilities and other job seekers take place across the country.

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Stay in Touch

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- 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

Visit: choosework.ssa.gov

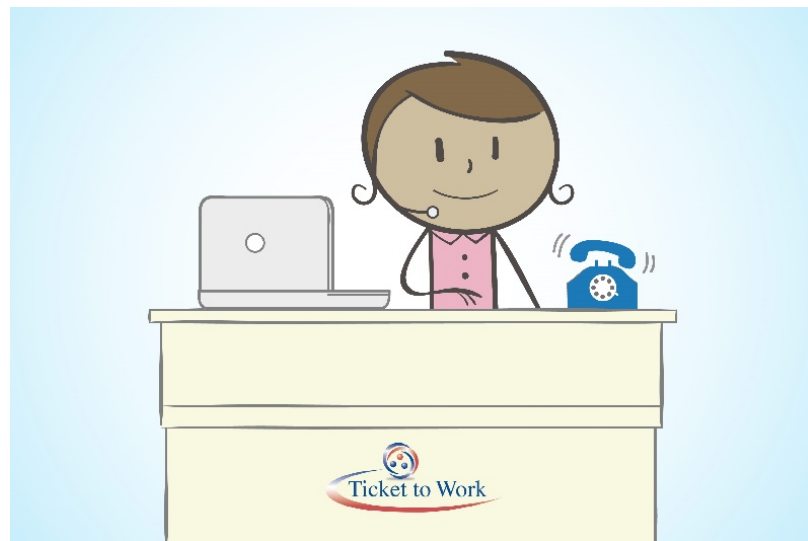
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