



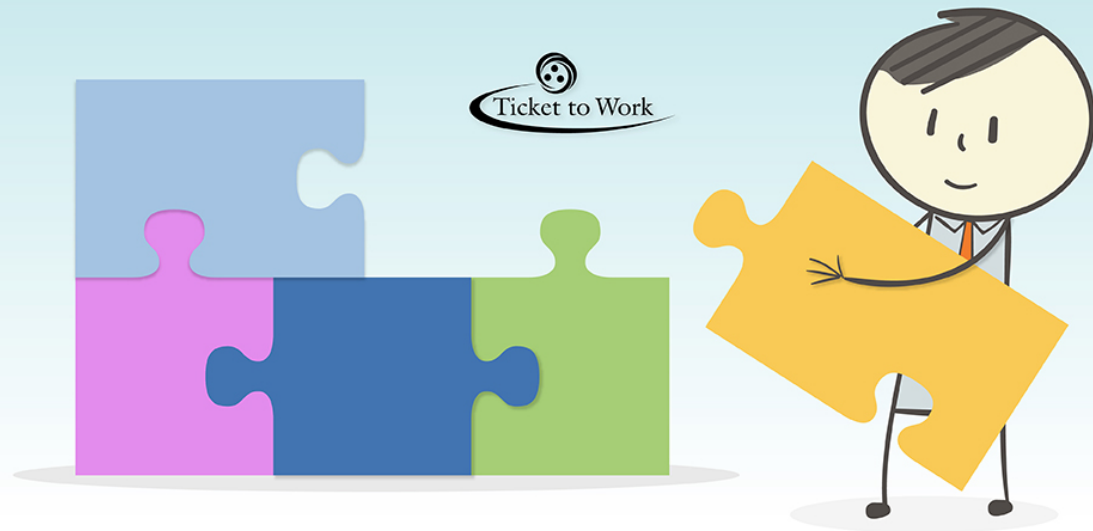
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So You Succeed Tomorrow



Putting it Together: Ticket to Work and the Path to Employment

Date:
Wednesday,
June 26, 2019

Time:
3 – 4:30 PM ET



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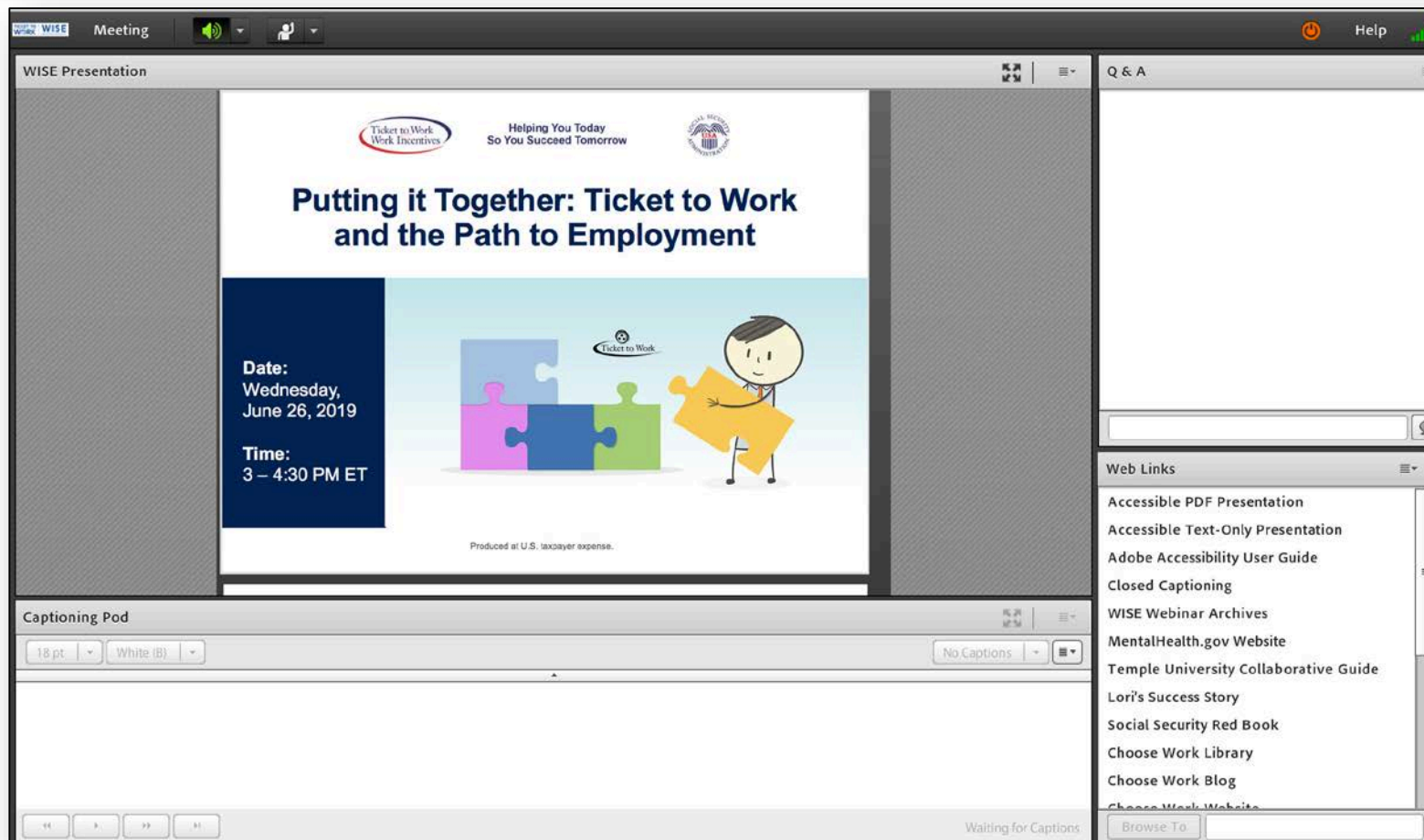
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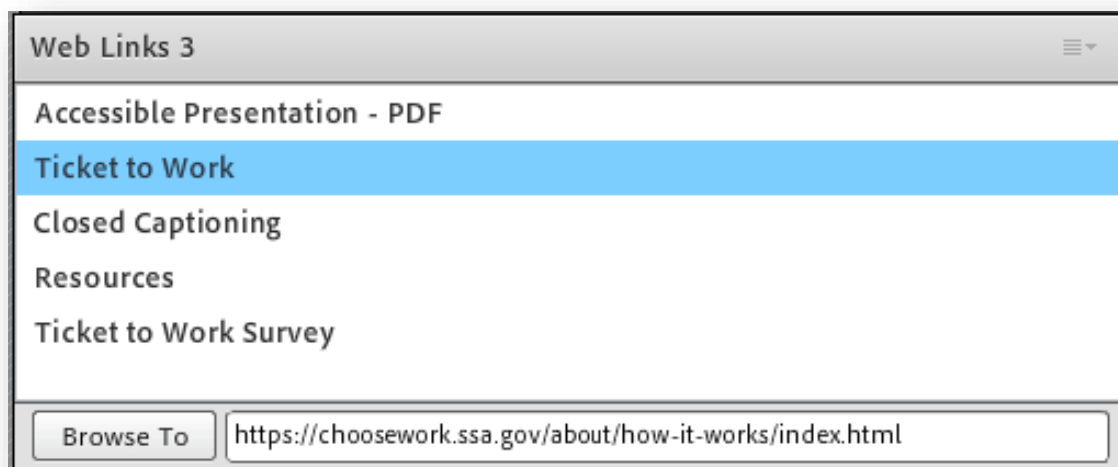
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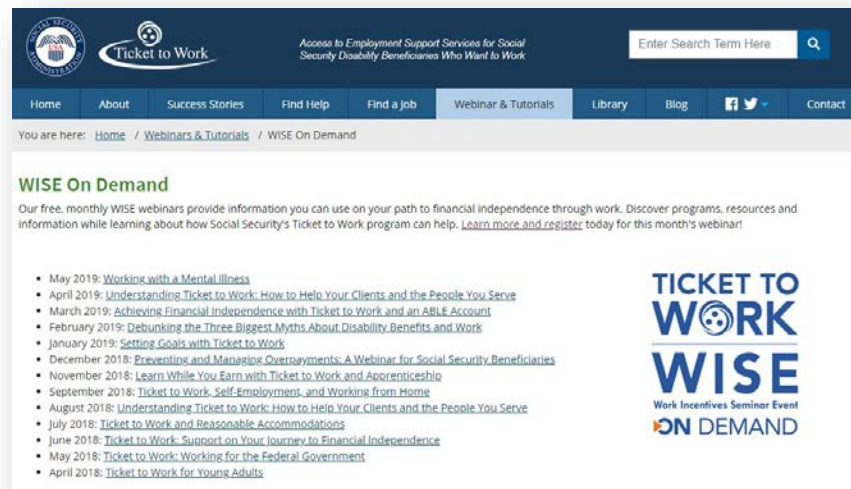
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Presenters

Welcome and Introductions

Moderator: Stacey Plizga, Ticket Program Moderator

Presenters: Michael McCullough & Julie Her,
Crossroads Diversified Services

Welcome!

Today we'll discuss and answer questions related to:

- Social Security Disability Benefits
- Social Security's Ticket to Work Program
- Ticket to Work Service Providers
- Social Security Work Incentives
- The Path to Work



Ticket to Work Program: Support on Your Journey to Work



Social Security Disability Benefits Programs



Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



Starting the Journey

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



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



What Is the Ticket to Work Program? (Continued)

Ticket to Work connects you with **free employment services** to help you:

- Decide if working is right for you
- Prepare for work
- Find a job
- Succeed at work



How It Works

If you choose to participate, you will receive services from authorized Ticket to Work service providers like **Employment Networks (ENs)** or your **State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency**.

Services can include:

- **Career counseling**
- **Resume help**
- **Interview advice**
- **Assistance finding a job**



Why Ticket to Work?

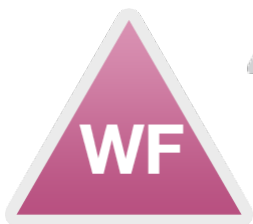
- Earning a living through employment is not something everyone can do, but it may be right for you. Many find that the rewards far outweigh the risks.
- Take the time to learn about the employment services and supports Social Security offers through the Ticket to Work program...you may be surprised! We're here to help you learn more and start on your journey to financial independence.



Ticket to Work Service Providers



Finding Support



- State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies
- Employment Networks (ENs)
- Workforce (WF) 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)

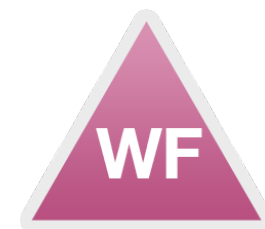
An EN is a private or public organization that has an agreement with Social Security to provide free employment support services to people eligible for the Ticket program.

- 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 and Work Incentives counseling



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

What is WIPA?

WIPA projects:

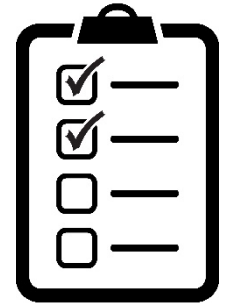
- Provide free benefits counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries
- Are staffed by Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWIC) who provide in-depth counseling about working, earning money, and how earnings will affect your benefits, including Social Security and others you may receive



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?

- PABSS organizations help people who receive Social Security disability benefits who have disability-related employment problems
- PABSS 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



Learn More About Service Providers

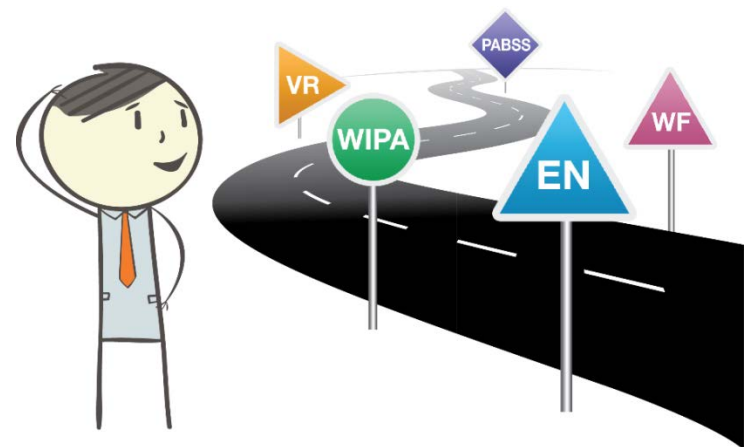
- Review Ticket to Work: Meet Your Employment Team: choosework.ssa.gov/about/meet-your-employment-team
- Find a service provider: choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp
- Call the Ticket to Work Help Line
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET:
 - 1-866-968-7842
 - 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)



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:
choosework.ssa.gov/library/finding-EN-assigning-your-ticket-worksheet
- Choosing the Right EN for You:
choosework.ssa.gov/library/choosing-the-right-employment-network-for-you



Questions?



Work Incentives



What Are Work Incentives?

Social Security has more than 20 Work Incentives that make it possible for you to **explore work** while still receiving benefits. They are designed to help you succeed!

- You may be able to **keep your Medicaid/Medicare** while you transition to work and, in some cases, after you've started working
- You have access to **individualized support services**
- You can **try work with confidence**, knowing you may be able to keep some or all of your benefits during your transition period



Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE)

What is IRWE?

If you have to pay out of pocket and are not reimbursed for certain items so you can work, Social Security subtracts the cost of certain impairment-related items and services from your gross earnings when we decide if your work is substantial gainful activity (SGA).

Examples include:

- Medicine, medical devices and disposable items related to your disability
- Assistive technology: hearing aids, tablets, if used for communication at work
- Service animals

Learn more about IRWEs!
<https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/2018-11-28-faq-impairment-related-work-expenses>

Learn More About Work Incentives

Looking for more information about what Work Incentives are and how you can use them on the path to financial independence through work?

Check out these resources:

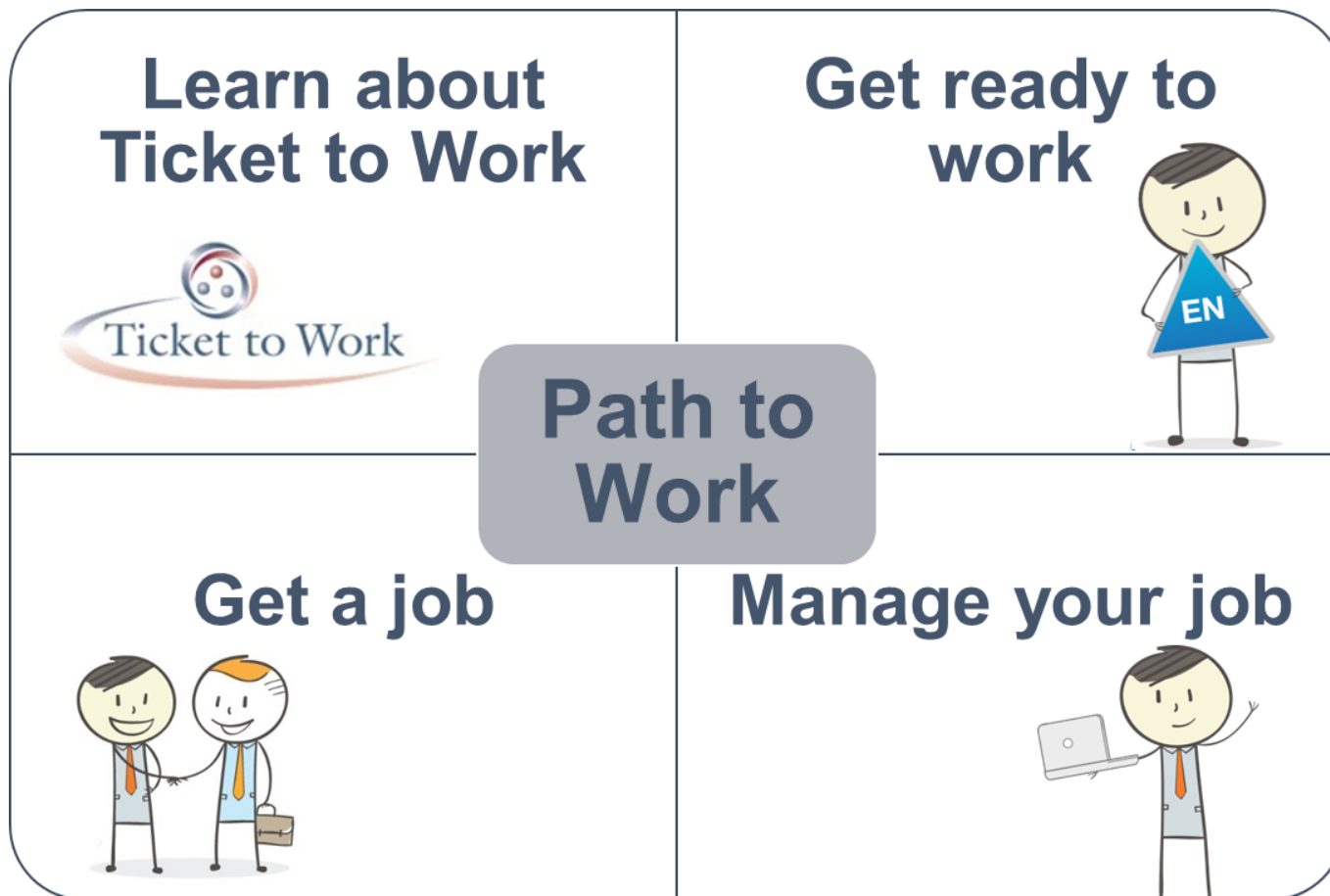
- Social Security Red Book:
www.ssa.gov/redbook
- Choose Work Library:
choosework.ssa.gov/library
- Choose Work! Blog:
choosework.ssa.gov/blog/subscribe



The Path to Work



Find Your Path to Work: Everyone's Is Different



Phase 1: Ticket to Work

- **What You May Be Doing During Phase 1:**
Deciding if work is right for you. This includes thinking about how work and earned income will affect your benefits.
- Some questions to consider:
 - How can work help me have a better future?
 - Is work the right choice?



Phase 1: Ticket to Work (Continued)

- **How the Ticket Program May Help:** Only you can choose if work is right for you. Ticket program service providers help by:
 - Offering benefits counseling
 - Discussing Work Incentives
 - Providing support transitioning to the workplace
 - Showing you how Social Security Work Incentives can serve as a safety net



Resources:

- Social Security Work Incentives:
choosework.ssa.gov/about/work-incentives/index.html
- Meet Ben: choosework.ssa.gov/about/index.html

Phase 2: Ready to Work

- **What You May Be Doing During Phase 2:**
Identifying your goals
- This is the time to:
 - Think about the types of jobs that interest you
 - Match jobs to your experience and skills
 - Work with a Ticket program service provider who will offer you free services to support your goals



Phase 2: Ready to Work (Continued)

- **How the Ticket Program May Help:** Your service provider will work with you to develop an Individual Work Plan (IWP) that serves as a roadmap to success in employment. They'll help you identify your work goals, as well as the specific supports and services they'll provide to help you reach them.

Resources:

- Planning Your Employment Goals with the Ticket Program:
choosework.ssa.gov/library/faq-planning-your-employment-goals-with-the-ticket-to-work-program
- Goal Setting:
choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2017-01-30-goal-setting



Phase 3: Getting a Job

- **What You May Be Doing During Phase 3:**
Applying for jobs. This includes writing or editing your resume, filling out job applications, and going to job interviews.



Phase 3: Getting a Job (Continued)

- **How the Ticket Program May Help:** When you're developing your IWP with your service provider, they'll identify the services they provide. This may include resume review and editing, interview preparation, mock interviews, and even job placement.

Resources:

- Resume and Interview Tips:
choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2018-10-04-resource-roundup-resume-and-interview-tips
- Interview Dos and Don'ts:
choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2018-10-30-interview-dos-and-donts-making-a-great-first-impression



Training and Education

- Everyone's path to work may be different. The Ticket program may be able to help with training and education support.
- Certain Social Security Work Incentives may help, including:
 - Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS):
choosework.ssa.gov/library/faq-plan-to-achieve-self-support
 - Student-Earned Income Expense (SEIE) *SSI only*:
choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2017-05-24-wiw-making-the-grade-at-school-and-work
 - Learn more about Work Incentives:
choosework.ssa.gov/about/work-incentives/index.html
- Your State VR agency may also be able to help you connect with opportunities to gain training, skills, and knowledge

Phase 4: Managing Your Job

- **What You May Be Doing During Phase 4:**

Congratulations! You've found a job and have started transitioning to the workplace! During this phase, you'll need to make sure that you report your work and wages to Social Security and assess whether you need any workplace accommodations.



Phase 4: Managing Your Job (Continued)

- **How the Ticket Program May Help:** Even though you've found a job, your service provider may continue to offer you key supports and services to help you succeed. They may be able to:
 - Answer your questions about wage reporting
 - Remind you of Work Incentives that apply to you, or
 - Help you request reasonable accommodations

Resources:

- Wage Reporting:
choosework.ssa.gov/about/wage-reporting/index.html
- How to Request Accommodations:
choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2018-07-19-how-to-request-accommodations



Success Story: Shirley



choosework.ssa.gov/library/shirley-success-story

- Shirley was diagnosed with narcolepsy and was advised to stop working until they could get her symptoms under control
- Shirley was later able to get help from Ticket to Work and Work Incentives to find her path to a better future

"I'm grateful for the help I received through Ticket to Work," she says. "It feels wonderful to have my independence back! I feel like I can rely on myself again. I've escaped the black outlook that weighed me down years ago. There are now bright colors on the canvas of my future!"

Learn More About the Path to Work

- Every person's path to work is an individual journey and may include different stages
- You can learn more about the Path to Work and discover even more resources to help you toward financial independence through work on our website at:
choosework.ssa.gov/about/your-path-to-work
- Working with a Ticket program service provider throughout each of the phases may offer you the resources you need, like benefits counseling, when you need them – whether it's in Phase 1, when you're thinking about work, or Phase 3, as you're transitioning to the workplace

Questions?



Putting It All Together



Putting It All Together: Question 1

You've 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! 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:
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: choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2018-05-31-do-you-know-what-kind-of-job-you-want



Questions?



How to Get Started

Social Security's Ticket to Work program has a variety of service providers and other resources ready to help you get started!

To get a list of providers in your area or to find answers to questions about the Ticket program and other Work Incentives, contact the Ticket to Work Help Line:

- **1-866-968-7842** or **1-866-833-2967** (TTY),
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET
- Visit choosework.ssa.gov



For More Information

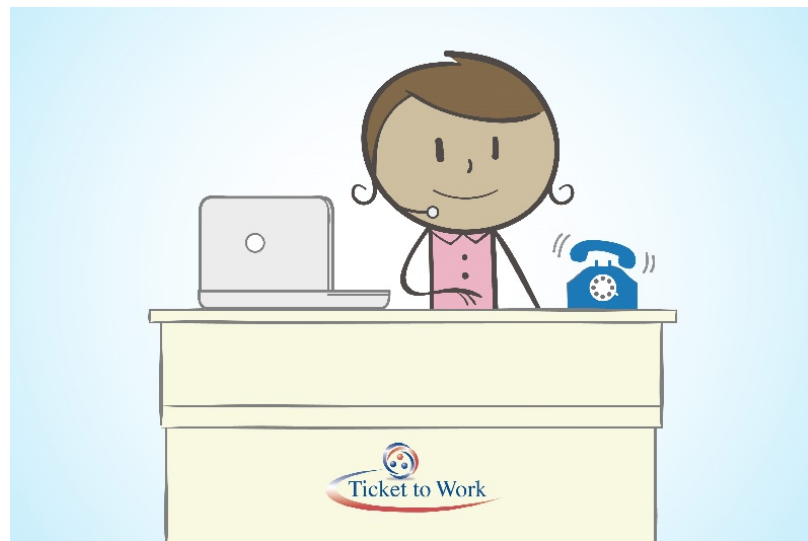
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Putting It Together: Reasonable Accommodations and the Path to Employment

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Time: 3 – 4:30 PM ET

**Register online: choosework.ssa.gov/wise
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