



Helping You Today  
So You Succeed Tomorrow



# Ticket to Work and Employment Supports for Veterans

**Date:**  
Wednesday,  
November 20

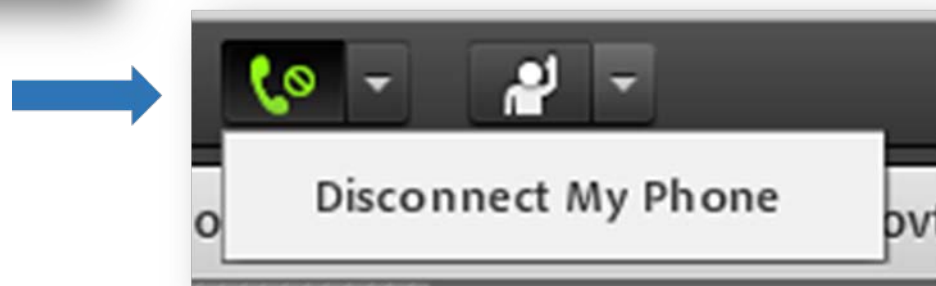
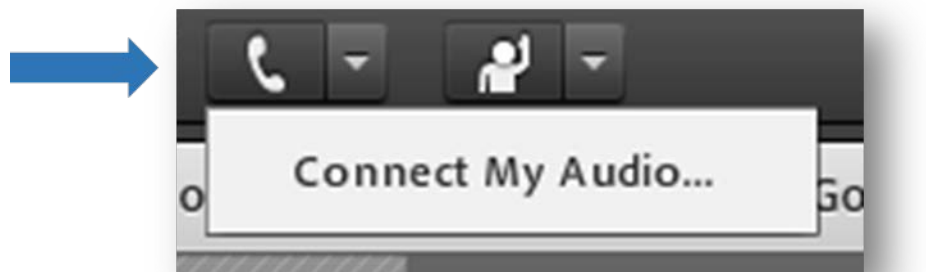
**Time:**  
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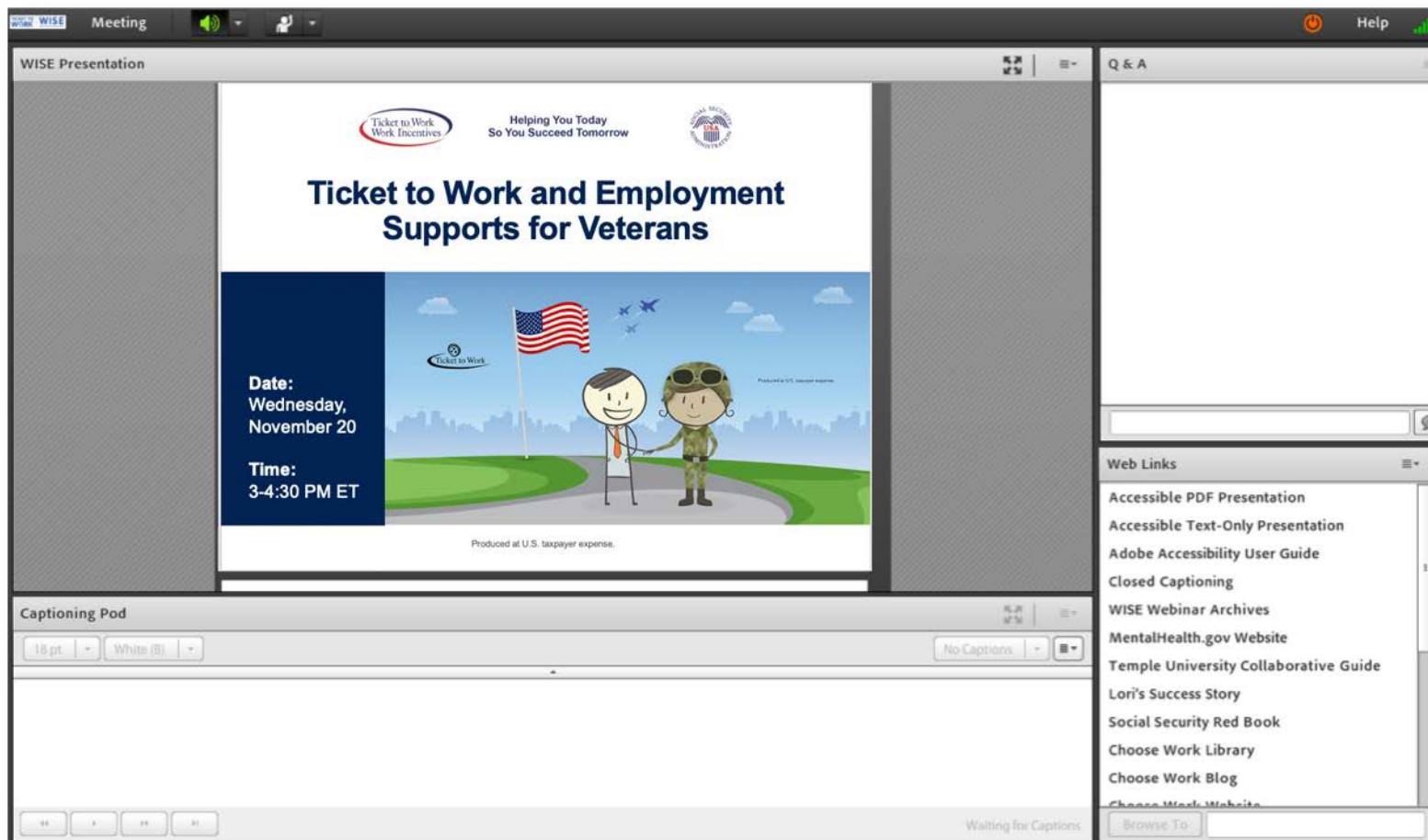
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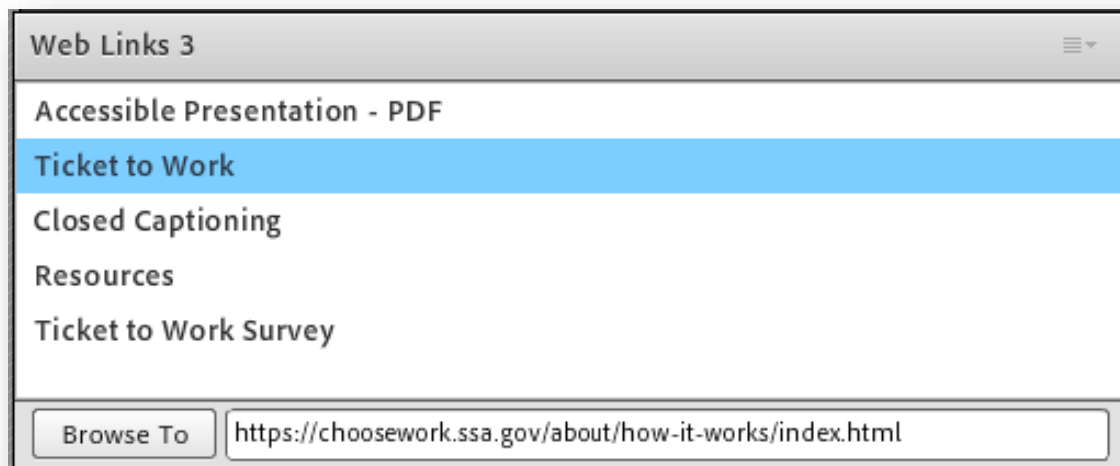
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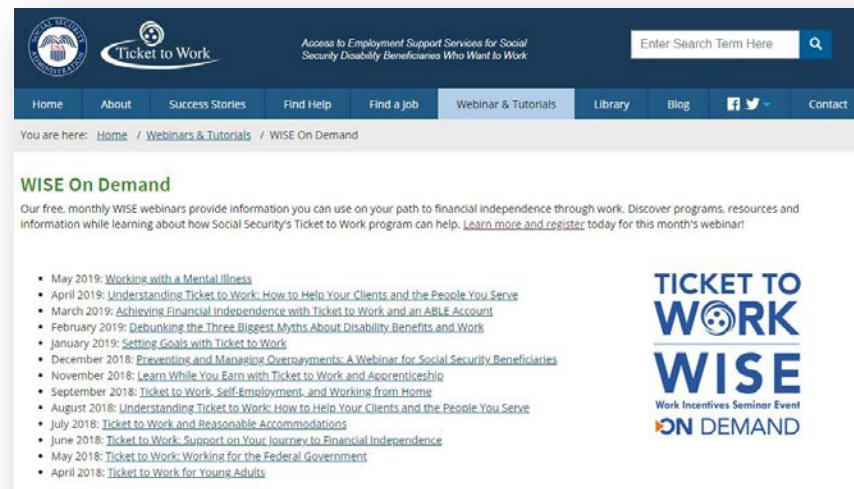
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# Presenters

## Welcome and Introductions

Moderator: Sarah Hyland, WISE Moderator

Presenters: Raymond A. Cebula, III, J.D., Cornell University  
Sheriene Knox, Operation: Job Ready Veterans

# Welcome!

Thank you for joining us! Today, we'll discuss how Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) program can help you and answer questions related to:

- The Ticket program's features
- The Ticket program service providers and Work Incentives
- How Ticket program service providers and Social Security Work Incentives can help veterans transition to the civilian workforce
- Employment tools for veterans with disabilities



# Objectives

At the close of today's webinar, you will:

- Better understand the Ticket program
- Be able to choose a service provider to help you meet your employment goals
- Be able to identify resources to support your transition to civilian life



# **Ticket to Work Program: Support on Your Journey to Work**





# Social Security Disability Benefits Program



**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? (Slide 1 of 2)

## Ticket to Work:

- Is a free and **voluntary** Social Security program
- Offers **career development** for people ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits



# What Is the Ticket to Work Program? (Slide 2 of 2)

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 (EN)** or your **State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency**.

Services can include:

- Career counseling
- Resume help
- Interview preparation
- 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. Once they understand the various free services and supports available to them, many people find that the rewards far outweigh the risks.
- If you take the time to learn about the employment services and supports available through the Ticket program...you may be surprised! We're here to help you on your journey to financial independence.



# Why Choose Work?

For veterans receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), the Ticket program offers help to identify transferable skills, prepare for and find job opportunities, and transition to the civilian workplace.



# Who Can Help You on Your Transition Back to Work?

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

- Employment Networks (EN)
- Workforce ENs
- State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies

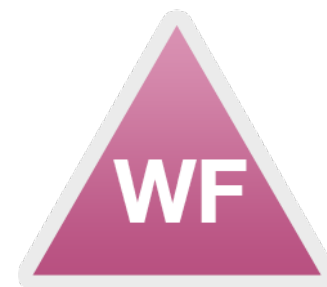




# Employment Networks (ENs) (Slide 1 of 2)

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

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



# Employment Networks (ENs) (Slide 2 of 2)

An EN's service area may cover:

- The local community
- An entire state
- Multiple states
- The whole country

An EN may offer its services:

- In person
- Virtually, by phone or email
- Both in person and virtually



# How Can Working with an EN Help You?

Services and supports are designed to help you on the path to financial independence through work and can include helping you to:

- Identify your work goals
- Write and review your resume
- Prepare for interviews
- Request reasonable accommodations
- Receive benefits counseling, if there's a certified Benefits Counselor on staff



# Workforce Employment Networks and Veterans

Some ENs are a part of the Public Workforce System, a network of federal, state, and local offices, that supports all qualified people with their work goals.

In addition to career planning and job placement supports, many Workforce ENs also offer training for veterans and have staff who understand how to bridge the skills and experiences of veterans to the civilian workplace.



# State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency

A State VR agency provides 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



# How Can Working with a State VR Agency Help You?

Many services are similar to what you can receive through an EN, but a State VR agency may also be able to help you with:

- Vocational rehabilitation
- Training and education

Similar to ENs, State VR agencies can also offer benefits counseling if they have a certified Benefits Counselor on staff.



# **Ticket to Work and Work Incentives**



# Social Security Work Incentives

Social Security offers more than 2 dozen Work Incentives, which make it easier for people with disabilities to work and still receive medical benefits and, in some cases, benefit payments from Social Security.





# Debunking the 3 Biggest Myths



# Myth #1

**If I go to work, I will automatically lose my Medicare or Medicaid.**



# Myth #1: FALSE

As long as you are receiving a benefit payment in any amount, you will keep your Medicare or Medicaid.



If your benefit payments stop, you may keep your Medicare or Medicaid indefinitely because of:

- Work Incentives
- Buy-in Programs (in many states)



## Myth #2

**If I use my Ticket to go to work, Social Security will conduct a medical review of my case, and I will lose my benefits.**



## Myth #2: FALSE

Social Security will not conduct a medical review if you participate in the Ticket program and are receiving services from either an Employment Network (EN) or your State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency:

- Before you receive a medical continuing disability review notice ***and***
- You are making timely progress following your Individual Work Plan



## Myth #3

**If my Social Security payments stop because I go to work, and then I have to stop working because of my disability, I will have to reapply for benefits all over again.**



## Myth #3: FALSE

If your benefit payments ended because of your work and earnings, and you stop work within 5 years of when your benefits ended, you may be able to have your benefits started again right away through a request for a Work Incentive called **Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)**.

To learn more about EXR, visit:  
[http://bit.ly/What\\_is\\_EXR](http://bit.ly/What_is_EXR)



# Learn More About Work Incentives

- Discover the truth about common myths:  
<http://bit.ly/Debunking-3-Myths>
- Learn more on Choose Work's website:  
[choosework.ssa.gov/about/work-incentives](http://choosework.ssa.gov/about/work-incentives)
- Read Choose Work's Work Incentives Wednesdays blog series:  
<http://bit.ly/blogWIW>
- Review Social Security's Red Book for more information:  
[www.ssa.gov/redbook](http://www.ssa.gov/redbook)





# **Veterans and Ticket to Work**



# Translating Military Experience to the Civilian Workplace (Slide 1 of 2)

Employers value your military training and experience and recognize that because of your service, you have many skills to offer, including:

- Leadership
- Time management
- Organization
- Flexibility



# Translating Military Experience to the Civilian Workplace (Slide 2 of 2)

Social Security has many resources to help veterans transition to civilian work life. The resources offer:

- Answers to popular questions about benefits eligibility and Social Security Work Incentives
- The *Journey to Success* publication series with guidance on employment tools for your path to work, from searching for a job to transitioning to work and financial independence
- Useful links from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense

Visit: [www.ssa.gov/people/veterans](http://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans)

# Questions?



# **Journey to Success: Employment Tools for Veterans with Disabilities**



# Preparing for Employment (Slide 1 of 2)

When preparing for employment, the questions that many of us ask ourselves are:

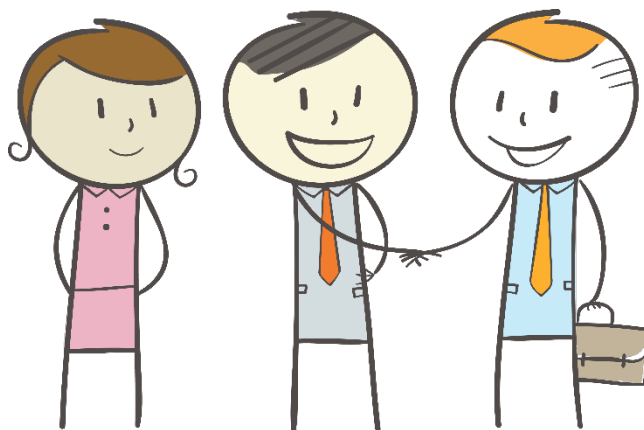
- *“How do I keep my disability from holding me back in finding a job?”*
- *“What type of career do I want?”*
- *“Do I have the education and training I need?”*

<http://bit.ly/EmploymentTools>

# Preparing for Employment (Slide 2 of 2)

Social Security has many resources that can accommodate your needs and reduce barriers to employment.

There are many resources available that can provide counseling and career services to point you in the right direction. These resources can help you get the education and training you need!



# Preparing for Employment Resources (Slide 1 of 3)

- **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)** is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues and works toward practical solutions that benefit both employers and employees.
  - <https://askjan.org/>



# Preparing for Employment Resources (Slide 2 of 3)

- **I Can Connect** is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that funds equipment and provides training for adaptive communications technology if you have combined hearing and vision loss.
  - [www.icanconnect.org](http://www.icanconnect.org)
- **Agency on Community Living (ACL)** funds programs throughout the country that support people with disabilities to live independently.
  - <https://acl.gov/>

# Preparing for Employment Resources (Slide 3 of 3)

- **Assistive Technology Programs (ATP)** are also funded by the ACL. These state programs offer people with disabilities the chance to test adaptive technology before buying it to see if it is right for you.
  - [http://bit.ly/Assistive\\_Technology](http://bit.ly/Assistive_Technology)
- **Benefits.gov** has a rich list of resources for housing, transportation, employment, financial support, and veterans' services.
  - [www.benefits.gov](http://www.benefits.gov)

# Finding Your Employment Destination (Slide 1 of 3)

Resources include programs for:

- Internships
- Job Placement
- Job Search
- Business Loans
- Business Start-up Programs



# Finding Your Employment Destination (Slide 2 of 3)

- **Vets.gov** Provides easy access to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL).
  - [www.vets.gov/employment/](http://www.vets.gov/employment/)
- **Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E)** offers services for veterans with disabilities. These services help transitioning service members and veterans with service-connected disabilities and employment challenges to prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment.
  - [www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp)

# Finding Your Employment Destination (Slide 3 of 3)

- **DOL American Job Centers** and the **CareerOneStop** program provide local centers for job search and employment training programs, as well as unemployment insurance services across the nation.
  - [www.mynextmove.org/vets/](http://www.mynextmove.org/vets/)
  - <http://bit.ly/AmericanJobCenters>
- **Hire Heroes** is a service offered by the USO Transition 360 Alliance to provide job counseling, networking opportunities, career planning, and training to transitioning veterans and their family members.
  - [www.uso.org/programs/hire-heroes-usa](http://www.uso.org/programs/hire-heroes-usa)

# Success Stories



# Angel's Story (Slide 1 of 2)

- Angel suffered from neck and back injuries after 2 tours of duty with the U.S. Air Force
- With help from his Ticket program service provider, he received:
  - Free benefits counseling
  - Information about Work Incentives
  - Confidence to transition to the workplace
  - Reasonable accommodations to help him succeed

## Angel's Story (Slide 2 of 2)

"Being back at work has had a positive impact in so many areas of my life," Angel reflects. "I've been able to [show] my children the rewards that can go with perseverance and resilience. The job has helped me build confidence, maintain good mental health, and regain a sense of accomplishment... all vital for the next chapter in our lives."

**Angel**

*A Ticket to Work Success Story*



<http://bit.ly/angel-success>



# Robert's Story (Slide 1 of 2)

- Robert, a veteran of the U.S. Army, sustained a spinal cord injury after a surgery mishap
- With help from his Ticket program service provider he:
  - Explored his interests and skills
  - Developed an Individual Work Plan (IWP)
  - Became a volunteer peer counselor
  - Was offered a position as a National Service Officer with the National Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

# Robert's Story (Slide 2 of 2)

“I never imagined I would get a job like the one I've had as a National Service Officer. It's rewarding to advocate for someone else. So many vets don't get the help they need because they don't know where to begin and how to go about the process. Ticket to Work helped me go to work where my heart is.”

**Robert**

*A Ticket to Work Success Story*



<http://bit.ly/roberts-success>

# **Additional Employment Resources**



# Institute for Veterans and Military Families (Slide 1 of 2)

- The Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) helps you after you leave the military
- IVMF programs support post-military careers by complementing military skillsets and training
- IVMF will assist you in finding programs, relevant resources, and answers to your questions



# Institute for Veterans and Military Families (Slide 2 of 2)

IVMF has over 70 programs to guide you to be successful in your education, work, and life. Its programs cover a variety of topics such as:

- Career Preparation & Employment
- Success in Entrepreneurship & Small Business
- Community Programs
- Community Support



For more information, visit: <https://ivmf.syracuse.edu>

# USAJOBS – Unique Hiring Path: Veterans

## Veterans' Preference:

- U.S. Armed Forces active duty
- Separated under honorable conditions
- Preference over non-veteran applicants

For more information, visit: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

**USAJOBS**

# Questions?



# Get Updates!

- Want to learn more about our monthly WISE webinars? Subscribe to find out our topics each month and be the first to register:  
<http://bit.ly/WISEsubscribe>
- Interested in learning more about the Ticket program, employment service providers, and other topics? Subscribe to the Choose Work blog to get our weekly updates sent directly to your inbox:  
[http://bit.ly/CW\\_subscribe](http://bit.ly/CW_subscribe)





# 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!

## Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

- 1-866-968-7842
- 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

**Visit:** [choosework.ssa.gov](https://choosework.ssa.gov)

## Connect:

Visit [choosework.ssa.gov/contact](https://choosework.ssa.gov/contact) to find us on social media and subscribe to blog and email updates!



# Join Us for Our Next WISE Webinar!



## **Ticket to Work: College Preparation for Students with Disabilities**

**Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

**Time: 3 – 4:30 PM ET**

**Register online: [choosework.ssa.gov/wise](https://choosework.ssa.gov/wise)**  
**or call 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**

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