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# Expanding Your Job Search with Ticket to Work

**Date:**  
Wednesday,  
March 25, 2020

**Time:**  
3 – 4:30 PM ET



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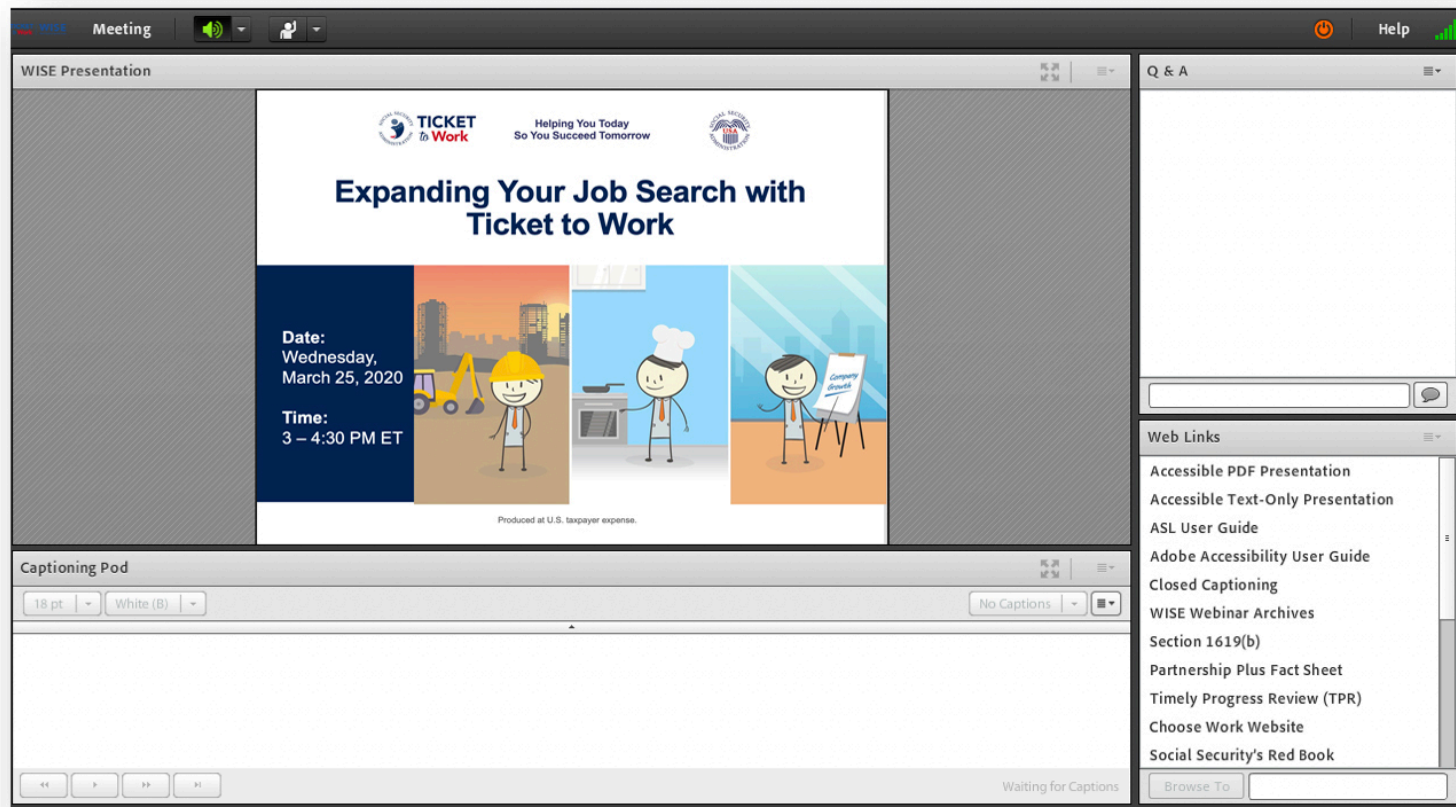
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# Webinar Accessibility



# Adobe Connect Platform



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<http://bit.ly/adobe-accessibility>

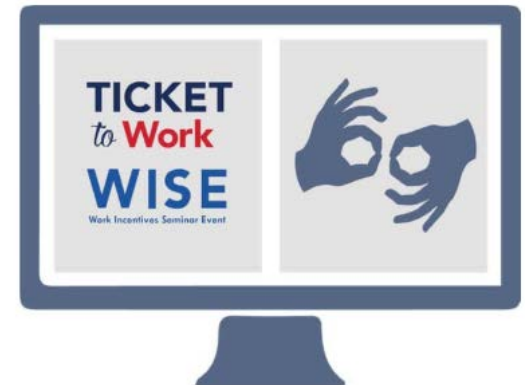
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# American Sign Language (ASL)

- If you're fluent in **ASL** and would like support during today's webinar, follow the link below that provides instructions to connect with an interpreter through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Video Relay Service (VRS)
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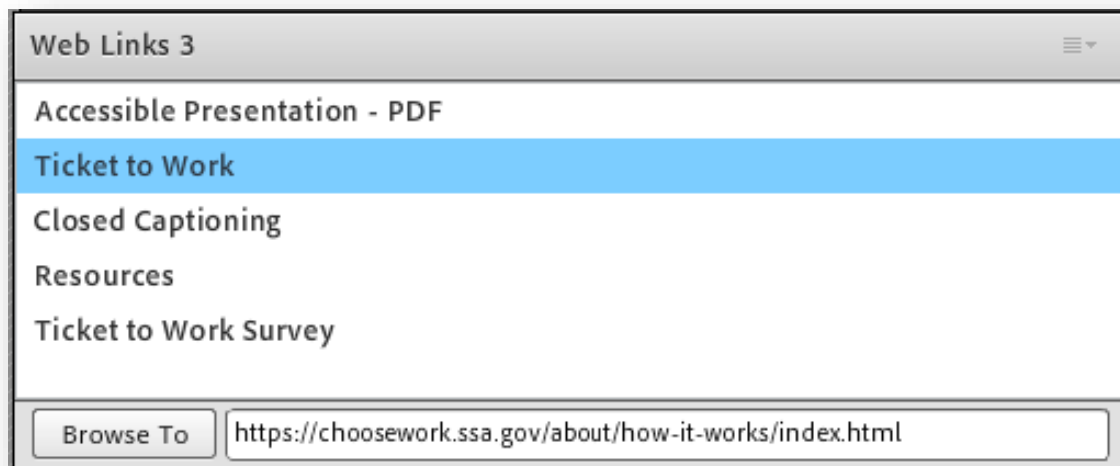
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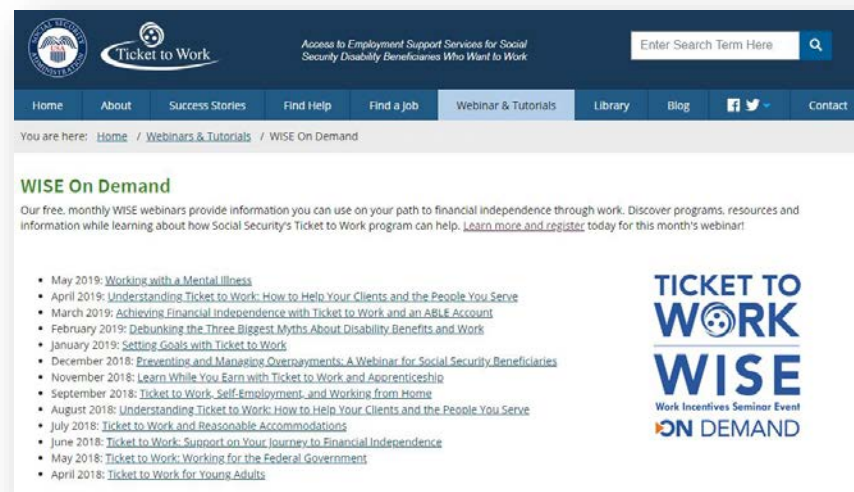
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# Presenters

## Welcome and Introductions

Moderator: Sarah Hyland, WISE Moderator

Presenter: Raymond A. Cebula, III, J.D., Cornell University

# 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:

- Social Security's Ticket program
- Your employment team
- Section 503 for Federal Contractors
- Federal Employment – Schedule A
- Apprenticeships



# Objectives

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

- Better understand the **Ticket program**
- Know your **employment team**
- Understand the **Section 503** requirements for federal contractors
- Identify how **Schedule A** can help you in your job search
- Know if **apprenticeship** is right for you
- Be able to find **job search resources**





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



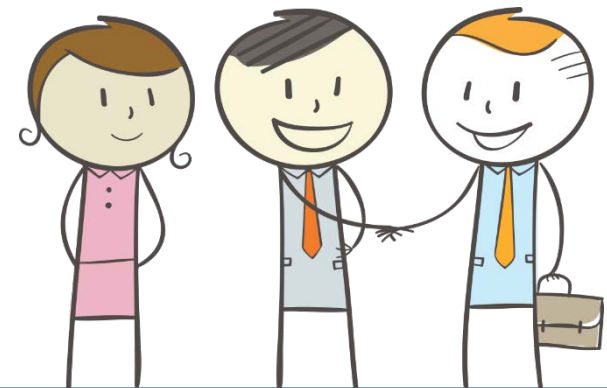
# Social Security Disability Benefits Program



**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)**



**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**



# Starting the Journey

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



# Why Ticket to Work?

- Earning a living through employment is not something everyone can do, but it may be **right for you**. Once people understand the many **free services and supports** available to them, they often 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.



# 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 and want to work



# 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 the Ticket Program Works

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



# 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 who are eligible for the Ticket program.

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





# 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**



# 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. A State VR agency can offer benefits counseling and may also be able to help you with:

- **Vocational rehabilitation**
- **Training and education**

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



# Work Incentives

Work Incentives are special Social Security rules and programs 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**

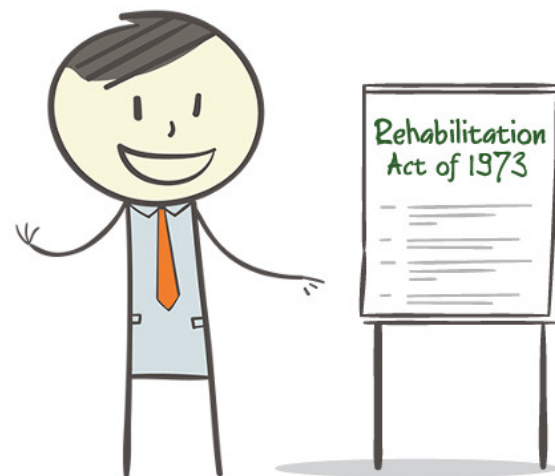


# **Section 503 for Federal Contractors**



# What Is Section 503?

- Part of the **Rehabilitation Act of 1973** and helps create opportunities for people with disabilities to find jobs
- Prohibits federal contractors/subcontractors from discriminating against people with disabilities
- Requires **affirmative action** in recruiting, hiring, training, promoting, and retaining people with disabilities



# Section 503 Requirements

- Allows you to **voluntarily self-identify** as a person with a disability before being offered a job
- Requires employers to invite employees to self-identify as an individual with a disability **every 5 years**
- Establishes a **7% utilization** goal for hiring/retaining workers with disabilities
  - Contractors must develop a plan to address any issues preventing their success in meeting this goal

# 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
- His willingness to identify as an individual with a disability was an asset during the hiring process
- With help from his Ticket program service provider, he received:
  - Free benefits counseling
  - Information about Work Incentives
  - 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>



# **Federal Employment: Schedule A**




# What Is Schedule A?

- If you're a person with a disability, you can apply and compete for **any job for which you are eligible** and meet the qualifications; but you also may be eligible for a special hiring authority.
- **Schedule A** refers to a special hiring authority that gives Federal agencies an optional way to hire people with disabilities.
- Applying under Schedule A offers an exception to the traditional competitive hiring process. You can apply for jobs using Schedule A if you are a person with an **intellectual disability, a severe physical disability, or a psychiatric disability.**

# Schedule A Requirements

- To be eligible for Schedule A, you must provide a "**proof of a disability**" letter stating that you have an intellectual disability, severe physical disability or psychiatric disability
- You can get this letter from:
  - Your doctor
  - A licensed medical professional
  - A licensed vocational rehabilitation specialist
  - Any federal, state, or local agency that issues or provides disability benefits
- Sample Schedule A letters can be found at:  
<https://bit.ly/schedule-A>

# How Do I Know a Job Is Open to Individuals With a Disability?

- Visit [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov).
- In the job announcement, look for the **This job is open to** section. When a job is open to **Individuals with a disability**, you'll see this icon: 
  - There may be other groups listed that can also apply.
- You can also select the **Individuals with disabilities** filter in search. Your results will display all jobs open to individuals with disabilities.

# What Is a Selective Placement Program Coordinator?

- Selective Placement Program Coordinators (SPPC) help agencies **recruit, hire, and accommodate** people with disabilities
- If you are a person with a disability and interested in a job opportunity, contact the agency SPPC using <http://bit.ly/SPPC-directory>

# What Are My Next Steps?

- If you're interested in Schedule A, get a **letter** to document your disability
- Update your resume with skills, abilities, and references
- Contact the agency's SPPC
- Contact the Ticket to Work Help Line at **1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)** to get a list of service providers who can help you or visit the **Find Help Tool**  
[choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp](https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp)



# Jesus's Story (Slide 1 of 2)

- Jesus was born with spina bifida and spent most of his childhood using a wheelchair or crutches
- With help from his Ticket program Employment Network, he:
  - Received benefits counseling and Work Incentives information
  - Developed an Individual Work Plan (IWP)
  - Received the support he needed to transition in his career, including resume writing and job leads
- Jesus qualified for Schedule A, allowing his employer to avoid the long and competitive hiring process.

# Jesus's Story (Slide 2 of 2)

“Work has helped me expand my social circles and my support network as well. I am very happy knowing that I can be independent, achieve the goals I set for myself, and I’m more confident every day. The Ticket to Work program... the help I received through it... helped me find my way to work at my own pace and I’m grateful for that.”

**Jesus**

*A Ticket to Work Success Story*



<https://bit.ly/jesus-success>



# Apprenticeships



# What Is an Apprenticeship?

- Is a **nationally-recognized** training program combining work with learning and training, both on and off the job
- Combines the development of **theoretical knowledge** regarding a particular occupation or range of occupations with **practical experience** gained from doing the job



# Value of Apprenticeship

- Apprenticeships offer a **way into industry**
- They are **real jobs** with **paid salaries**
- An experienced worker will be there to **mentor** you
- Opportunities may exist to **advance** in your chosen career



# Educational Benefits of Apprenticeships

- Gain a variety of **job-specific** and **transferable skills**
- Use apprenticeship as a **pathway to college**
- Earn **college credit** or even a **bachelor's degree**
- Progress into **higher education**
- Earn a **credential** upon completion



# Questions?



# **Taking the Next Step on the Path to Employment**



# Job Posting Resources

- American Job Centers (AJCs): <https://www.careeronestop.org/>
- USA Jobs: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- Federal Agency Websites: <https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies>
- US DOL: <http://bit.ly/dol-apprenticeship>
- Apprenticeship Finder Tool: <http://bit.ly/finder-tool>

# Need Help Finding a Job?

- Check out our new **Find A Job** page!
- Get started on your job search and connect with a Ticket program service provider along the way!
- Connect with resources that can help you advance your employment journey.



[choosework.ssa.gov/  
find-a-job/index.html](https://choosework.ssa.gov/find-a-job/index.html)



# How Do You Find a Service Provider?

- If you're ready to find a service provider, visit [choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp](https://choosework.ssa.gov/findhelp)
- Search by:
  - ZIP code
  - Services offered
  - Disability type
  - Languages spoken
  - Provider type (EN, Workforce EN, VR, WIPA, or PABSS)
- Or call the **Ticket to Work Help Line** for a list of service providers at **1-866-968-7842** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY)**



# 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:

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*to* **Work**

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Work Incentive Seminar Event

**Ticket to Work: Support on Your Journey to Employment**

**Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

**Time: 3 – 4:30 PM ET**

**Register online: [choosework.ssa.gov/wise](https://choosework.ssa.gov/wise)**  
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