



TICKET
to **Work**

Helping You Today
So You Succeed Tomorrow



Ticket to Work and the Path to Employment

Date:
Wednesday,
August 26,
2020

Time:
3 – 4:30 PM ET



Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.

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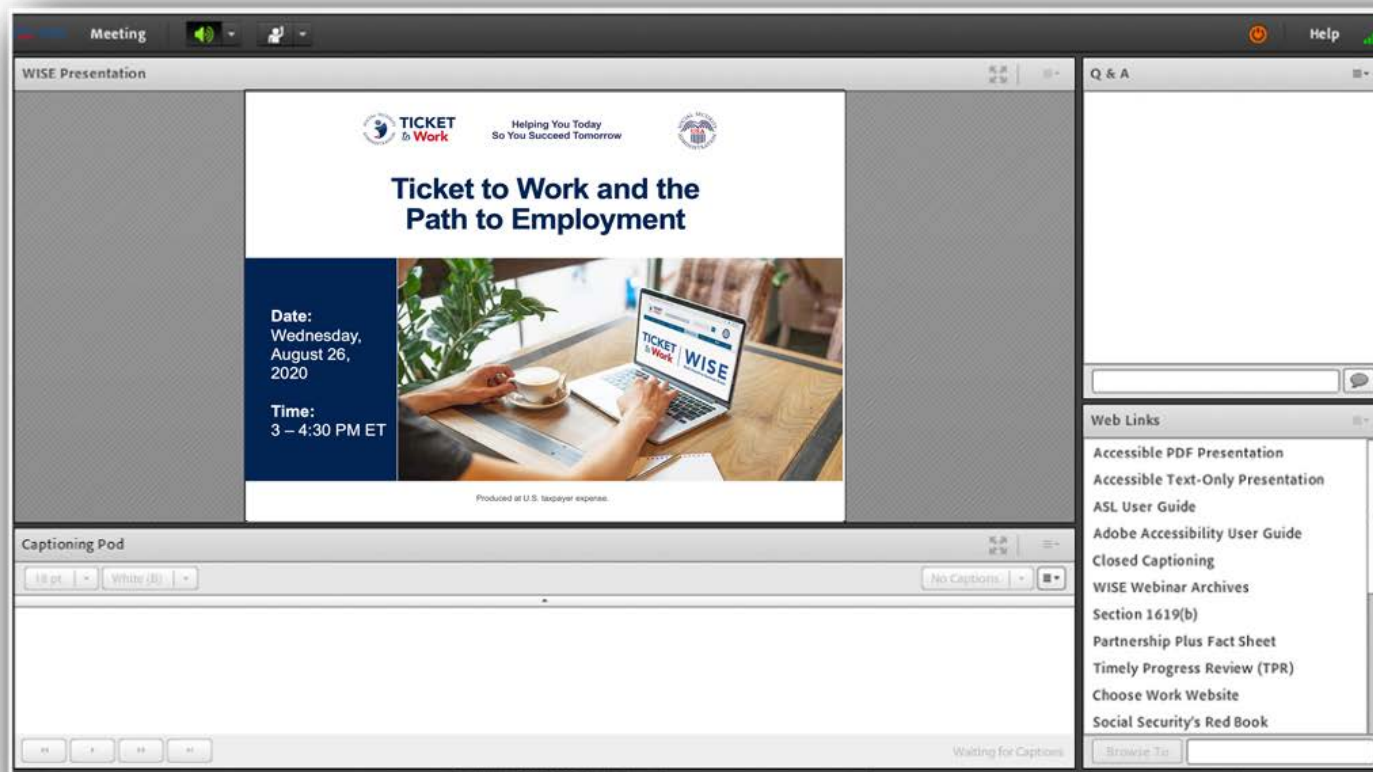
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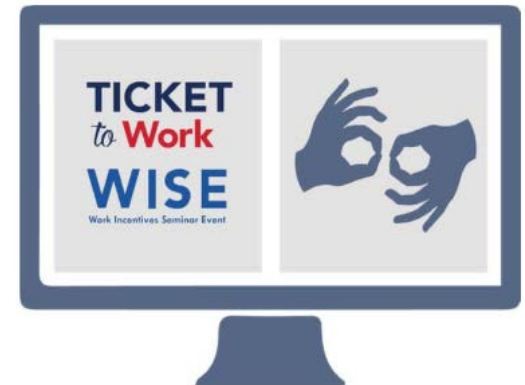
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- Real-time captioning is provided during this webinar
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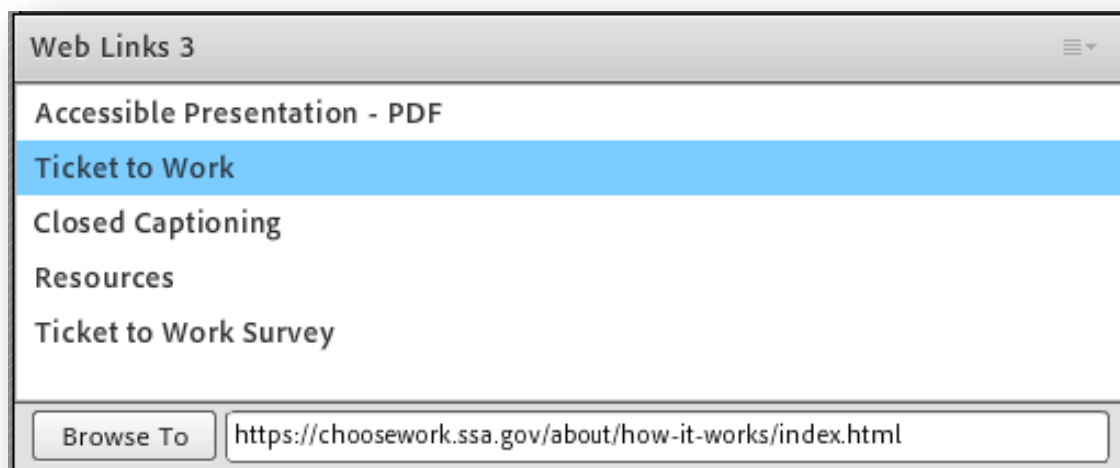
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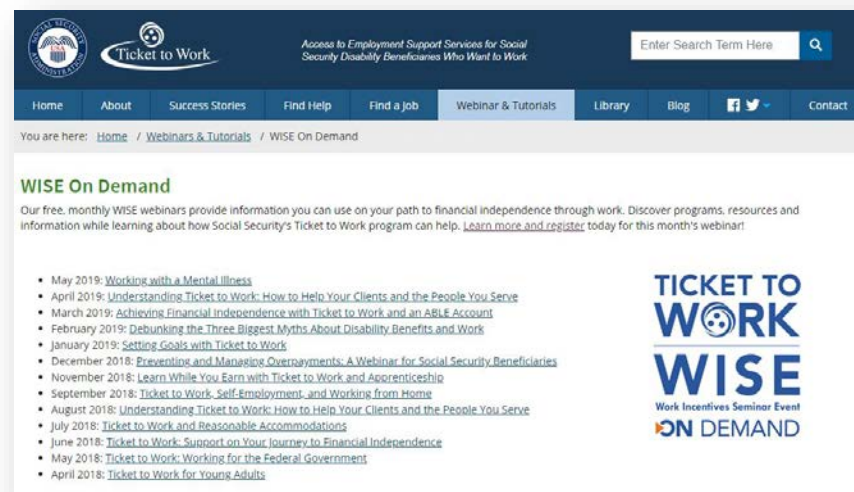
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Presenters

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
- Ticket Program Service Providers
- Benefits Counseling and the Path to Work



Ticket to Work Program: Support on Your Path 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



Ticket Program Service Providers



Who Can Help You Achieve Your Work Goals?

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
- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) organizations



Employment Network (EN)

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.



What Is Partnership Plus?

Partnership Plus is an agreement that allows State VR agencies to partner with ENs to provide a **transition of services** for those who need **ongoing support**.

- VR agencies typically close a case approximately 90 days after you start working
- An EN may offer continued support services to maintain employment and increase your earnings over time



choosework.ssa.gov/library/partnership-plus

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Projects

WIPA projects are staffed by Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC) who:



- Provide **free benefits counseling** to Social Security disability beneficiaries about how work and earnings will affect your SSDI, SSI, Medicare or Medicaid, and other public benefits
- Help you understand **Social Security Work Incentives** and how they apply to you
- Explain the potential **benefits of employment** and **dispel myths** about working
- Help you decide if the services and supports from the Ticket Program are **right for you**

Whom Do WIPA Projects Serve?

The Ticket to Work Help Line will refer you to a WIPA project if you receive SSDI, SSDI-related Medicare, SSI, or SSI-related Medicaid and you:



- Are currently **working** or **self-employed**
- 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 **age 14–25**, even in the earliest stages of considering work

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) (Slide 1 of 2)

- PABSS organizations provide **free legal assistance** to people who receive Social Security disability benefits and who have disability-related employment issues
- PABSS services may include:
 - **Legal support**
 - **Advocacy**
 - Information to help beneficiaries **resolve employment-related concerns** with employers, Social Security, ENs, State VR agencies, WIPA projects, or others



Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) (Slide 2 of 2)

PABSS services may also provide help with:

- Navigating organizations and services to support your effort to work and **protect your rights**
- **Requesting** reasonable accommodations in your college classes, training courses, licensing programs, and workplace
- Addressing other **disability-based legal issues** that are barriers to employment



How Do You Find a Service Provider?

- If you're ready to find a service provider, visit 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)**
Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm ET



Benefits Counseling and the Path to Work



Myth



My friend told me he went to work and lost his disability benefits. This is going to happen to me, too.

False!

Both SSI and SSDI have rules that allow you to try working without worrying about losing your benefits right away.

We encourage you to call the **Ticket to Work Help Line** at **1-866-968-7842** or **1-866-833-2967 (TTY)** or connect with a **Benefits Counselor** for more information about your particular situation.



What Is Benefits Counseling?

If you receive Social Security disability benefits (SSDI/SSI) and are considering returning to work or working for the first time, you may have questions about **how your earnings will affect your benefits.**

Benefits counseling is a **free service** offered by many Ticket to Work service providers to explain how earnings from work will affect your federal and state benefits.

Benefits Counseling

Benefits Counselors can help you understand how work will affect federal and state benefits, such as:

- Healthcare benefits, including Medicare and Medicaid
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Housing assistance
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/food stamps

Finding a Benefits Counselor

There are 3 types of service providers that offer access to benefits counseling:

- Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects
- State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies
- Employment Networks (EN)



Benefits Counseling and the Path to Employment

Learn more about benefits counseling in our latest fact sheet, **Benefits Counseling and the Path to Employment**.



<https://bit.ly/ttw-benefits-counseling>

Questions?



Additional Resources



Taking the Next Step

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

It's a big decision that requires:

- Understanding how working will affect your Social Security disability benefits and other benefits
- Support **finding** and **keeping** a job

Ticket to Work is here to help!



Finding a Job

- Check out our **Find A Job** page!
- We provide resources and information about employment organizations, including those that specifically serve people with disabilities.
- Get started on your job search and connect with a Ticket Program service provider along the way!



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

Success Stories

- Ticket to Work success stories feature people just like you who have achieved financial independence and worked their way off benefits with the support of the Ticket program.
- Read their stories to learn more!



<https://bit.ly/ticket-stories>

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!

Call the Ticket to Work Help Line:

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

Visit: choosework.ssa.gov

Connect:

Visit choosework.ssa.gov/contact/index.html to find us on social media and subscribe to blog and email updates!





Opt-In to Receive Text Messages

- Get advice and encouragement, and read stories about people who achieved financial independence with help from the Ticket to Work program.
- If you're interested in receiving text messages from the Ticket program, please text **TICKET** to **474747**. Standard messaging rates may apply.

Join Us for Our Next WISE Webinar!

TICKET
to **Work**

WISE
Work Incentive Seminar Event

Ticket to Work for Human Service Organizations

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Time: 3 – 4:30 PM ET

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

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[choosework.ssa.gov/surveys/wise.](https://choosework.ssa.gov/surveys/wise)

