

Ticket Talk



Podcast Transcript

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Ticket Talk Podcast Information

Opening: You are listening to the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Podcast series. Get answers to your questions, access information and resources, and receive expert advice on Work Incentives and the Ticket to Work program.

Today we are introducing a three part series titled: Your Employment Team – Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and You! This series will share information about how some Ticket to Work service providers can make up your employment team. We will also focus on the free Vocational rehabilitation agency or VR services that can support you on your journey to financial independence.

Adults 18 through 64 receiving Social Security disability benefits are eligible to participate in the Ticket to Work program. The program provides free services to help you prepare for, find, or maintain employment. State vocational rehabilitation agencies and authorized service providers, known as employment networks, both offer these types of services.

Every state has a vocational rehabilitation agency that is designed to help people with disabilities meet their employment goals. Vocational rehabilitation agencies or VRs, assist individuals with disabilities to prepare for, find, keep, or regain employment. They have supported the rehabilitation of approximately 1.2 million persons with disabilities. Through Social Security's Ticket to Work program, state VRs typically work with people who need more significant services. In some states, this includes intensive training, education, and rehabilitation. They may also provide career counseling, job placement assistance and counseling on the effect that working may have on Social Security disability benefits.

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Many beneficiaries like you want to work. Gaining the skills needed for a career, learning how to prepare for a job interview or getting the accommodations needed to stay employed, are just a few of the ways that the state VR can help you meet your employment goals and achieve financial independence.

Services are provided based on individual needs. Some of these services include: evaluation to determine the nature and degree of your disability and your job capabilities; training to learn job skills and trade school, college or university; on the job or at home; hearing examinations, hearing aids and other communication equipment; audio rehabilitation and interpreter services for the deaf and hearing impaired; assistive devices such as artificial limbs, braces, and wheelchairs to stabilize or improve functioning on the job; and rehabilitation technological devices and services to improve job functioning. Employment networks help you stay organized and communicate with Social Security, so you can remain focused on advancing your career. Having a resource in your corner can make the adjustment to work easier. Sometimes it may take time to begin to receive services from your state vocational rehabilitation agency. In this case, an EN is another option for receiving employment services.

Your state VR can be a good place to begin exploring your options. Many people gain skills and find work with help from their VR. Others find their needs are better met with an EN. If you received services from your state VR to find work, you can use your Ticket to Work to receive ongoing services from your EN after you are on the job. If you receive services from your state's VR to find work, your state VR can be a good place to begin exploring your options. Many people gain skills and find work with help from a VR. Others find their needs are better met with an EN. If you received services from your state VR to find work, you can then use your Ticket to Work to receive ongoing services from your EN after you are on the job.

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State VR agencies often collaborate with ENs to provide job retention services and other types of ongoing support. This arrangement known as Partnership Plus, gives Ticket program participants continued access to individualized employment services if needed. Visit the Ticket to Work website to learn more about Partnership Plus.

If you have any questions about what we discussed or you'd like to learn more about the Ticket to Work program, visit: www.socialsecurity.gov/work, or call the Ticket to Work helpline at 1-866-968-7842 for voice, or 1-866-833-2967 for TTY.

Closing: Stay tuned. Sign up to receive updates on our 2014 podcast series at www.socialsecurity.gov/work.