



Ticket Work

What is the Ticket to Work Program?

The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is the centerpiece of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, and a key component of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative. The goal of the Ticket Program is to give disability beneficiaries the opportunity to achieve steady, long-term employment by providing them greater choices and opportunities to go to work if they choose to do so. The legislation also removes barriers that previously influenced people's choices between healthcare coverage and work. The Program is under the authority of SSA and administered nationally by MAXIMUS, Inc., the contracted Program Manager (PM).

In the next few years, over 9 million Social Security Administration (SSA) beneficiaries with disabilities will be eligible for this Program.

How Does this Program Work?

In 2001, SSA began contracting with national, state, and local service providers to become Employment Networks (ENs). Employment Networks are service providers that work with beneficiaries to provide support and employment-related assistance. The outreach for qualified providers and the contracting process is ongoing and open-ended throughout the life of the Program.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) issues Tickets to eligible adult (ages 18-64 years) beneficiaries. Tickets can be used to obtain rehabilitation and employment services or a job from any EN a beneficiary chooses.

The Ticket Program is voluntary. Beneficiaries receiving Tickets are not required to participate in the Program or go to work. They may choose to use the Ticket and contact any EN of their choice to discuss services. After the EN of choice and the beneficiary design and agree upon an employment plan, the Ticket is then assigned to the EN.

The Ticket Program rewards success. Once an EN chooses to work with a beneficiary, they are responsible for providing the agreed-upon services as long as the Ticket remains assigned to them. Once the beneficiary reaches Program outcomes, ENs receive payments from the Social Security Administration.

In addition to the Ticket Program, SSA established other service supports in the form of locally based organizations that provide benefit planning, assistance and outreach to beneficiaries; and legal services through protection and advocacy systems in each state.

Fact Sheet

When is the Ticket Program Coming to Your State?

The Ticket to Work Program is being phased in nationally. **In February 2002**, SSA began mailing approximately 2.4 million Tickets to beneficiaries in 13 states:

Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin.

In late 2002, SSA will extend the Program to 20 additional states and the District of Columbia:

Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia.

In 2003, the final phase of the Program expands to these remaining states and territories:

Alabama, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern M.I., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.