TICKET TO WORK
Free Support Services for Young Adults in Transition

Work Incentive Seminar Event

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Time: 3:00 p.m. EST
Audio and Questions Panels

Audio Mode: Use Telephone, Use Mic & Speakers

Talking: Suzie Smith

Questions Log:
Q: Is there a volume discount?
A: Yes! We will send you more info after the event.

Yes

Webinar Now
Webinar ID: 731-938-951

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Webinar Accessibility
1. Welcome and Introduction
   Ray Cebula, Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University

2. Work Incentive Planning & Assistance Projects
   Tina Williams, CWIC, ILRC of Northeast Florida

3. The Ticket to Work Program
   Tina Williams

4. Ticket to Work for Young Adults in Transition
   Tina Williams

5. Employment Network
   Lisa Parlapiano, Disability Program Navigator, Worksource Florida

6. Vocational Rehabilitation
   Marie O. Hightower, VR Area Supervisor

7. Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security
   Natalie Alden, Advocate/Investigator, Disability Rights Florida

8. Other Resources
   Ray Cebula

9. Questions and Answers
   Ray Cebula & Presentation Team
What can you expect from this presentation?

• Information on the Ticket to Work program and Work Incentives
• Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
• Where to Find More Information
• Success Stories from People who Used Their Ticket to Work
Why should you work?

- Earn more income
- Gain independence
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
Ticket to Work for You!

Victor’s Success Story

- Victor Quibas used the Ticket to Work program to help him develop his skills and return to work after becoming disabled.
- He accredits the Ticket to Work program for his ability to provide more for his family, resulting in a more hopeful future.

Victor Quibas
Communications Supervisor

Helping You Today
So You Succeed Tomorrow
Common Concerns

Will I lose my benefits?

How do I get the skills and experience I need?

What if I have to stop working?
Work Incentive Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Projects
Tina Williams, CWIC, ILRC of Northeast Florida
• WIPA projects are SSA-approved organizations that assist beneficiaries in making informed choices about work AND their services are FREE!

• WIPA projects staff:
  ✓ *Are trained to provide information* about Ticket to Work and Work Incentives
  ✓ *Can answer questions* about how work will affect your benefits
  ✓ *Can help you* find the resources or services to achieve your work goals
  ✓ Host *Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE)*
You’re Ready to Explore the Idea of Returning to Work: Where Do You Go from Here?

- Learn more about all the Work Incentives that apply to you
- Build your employment team
- Stay positive and look for opportunities
Social Security Disability Benefit Programs

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Both SSDI and SSI = Concurrent Benefits
Change can be scary, but a lot less scary when you know some basic program rules!

**Common Concerns**

- What risks am I taking by starting a new job training program or going back to school?
- I’m concerned about my SSI checks being reduced, or jeopardizing my SSDI entitlement by getting a paying job.
- What happens if I get into an overpayment situation? How can I prevent that from happening?
Debunking the Three Biggest Myths

#1

If I try to go to work, I will automatically lose my Medicare or Medicaid.
#2

If I use my Ticket to go to work, Social Security will perform a medical review on me and I will lose my benefits.
Debunking the Three Biggest Myths

#3

If I go to work and then have to stop working, I will have to reapply for benefits all over again. It took me forever to be approved for benefits and I cannot afford to have to wait that long again so I should not try to work.
The Ticket to Work Program

Tina Williams
What is Ticket to Work?

- A FREE and VOLUNTARY program to assist SSI and SSDI beneficiaries who have a disability go to work or increase their current work hours.
- Most people with disabilities ages 18 through 64 who are receiving SSI and/or SSDI benefits can participate in the program.
What does the Ticket to Work program do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I am...</th>
<th>Ticket to Work and Work Incentives can...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...ready to make money!</td>
<td>...help you improve your earning potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...in need of personal fulfillment, and working will really boost my self-esteem.</td>
<td>...provide the assurance and stability you need to feel confident while you pursue employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...discouraged. What if no one wants to hire me?</td>
<td>...help you build confidence and a sense of control while you research your work options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...afraid that I will lose my benefits and I won’t be able to get them back.</td>
<td>...give you peace of mind while you prepare for work. As long as you are making progress in the program, you won’t lose your benefits until you are able to earn at the SGA amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...afraid I won’t be able to get back on benefits if my job doesn’t work out.</td>
<td>...put you on the fast track back to receiving benefits if your job does not work out because of your disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...overwhelmed. Who can help me get started and stay with me through the entire process?</td>
<td>...connect you with the people, resources and services you need to develop a work plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How does the Ticket to Work program work?

If you’re ready to explore work, then take the following steps:

- Meet with a benefits counselor at your local Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) project to discuss your options.

- Find an Employment Network that suits your needs and assign your Ticket.

- Stay connected to your Employment Network as you explore your work options.

Ready to get started? Call the Ticket to Work Help Line at **866-968-7842** (voice) or 866-833-2967 (TTY) or visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work to find a WIPA near you.
Work Incentives
Tina Williams
What are Work Incentives?
Work Incentives have many advantages

Work Incentives provide you with a safety net so you can:

- Receive training for new skills
- Improve the skills you already have
- Pursue your education
- Try different jobs
- Start a career
- Gain confidence
### Common Work Incentives

| **Trial Work Period (TWP)**  
| **(SSDI recipients only)** | The TWP allows you to test your ability to work for at least nine months. During your TWP, you will receive full SSDI benefits no matter how much you earn as long as your work activity is reported and you have a disabling impairment. |
| **Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)**  
| **(SSDI recipients only)** | During the 36 months after the Trial Work Period, Social Security may restart your SSDI benefits without a new application, disability determination, or waiting period. |
| **Earned Income Exclusion (EIE)**  
| **(SSI recipients only)** | Less than half of your earnings are counted by Social Security as earned income which may allow you to continue receiving an SSI check while working. |
| **Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)**  
| **(SSDI and SSI recipients)** | If your benefits stopped because of your earnings level, you can request to have your benefits reinstated without having to complete a new application. While Social Security determines your benefits reinstatement, you are eligible to receive temporary benefits for up to six months. |
| **Protection from Medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR)**  
| **(SSDI and SSI recipients)** | You will not have to undergo a medical continuing disability review (CDR) while you are participating in the Ticket to Work program. |
Ticket to Work for Young Adults in Transition

Tina Williams
Young Adults in Transition

Three incentives designed just for you!

- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS)
- Section 301 Continuing Benefits
Young Adults in Transition

- If you are under age 22 and regularly attending school, you qualify for SEIE
- Social Security does not count up to $1640 of earned income per month when figuring your SSI payment (maximum yearly exclusion = $6600)
- SEIE is applied before your general income exclusion or your earned income exclusion
• You are regularly attending school if you take one or more courses and attend classes:
  • In a college or university for at least 8 hours a week OR
  • In grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours a week OR
  • In a training course to prepare for employment for at least 12 hours a week (15 hours a week if the course involves shop practice)
• You are regularly attending school if you are home taught and:
  • You are instructed in grades 7-12 for at least 12 hours a week AND
  • The instruction is in accordance with a home school law of your state or jurisdiction

• If you are home taught because of your disability:
  • Your courses of study must be provided by a school (grades 7-12), college, university or government agency AND
  • A home visitor or tutor must direct the study
If you receive SSI, you could benefit from a PASS plan.

A PASS allows you to set aside other income besides your SSI for a specified period of time so that you may pursue a work goal.

When Social Security figures your SSI payment amount, they do not count the income that you set aside under your PASS plan.
• An EN, VR agency, social worker, or benefits specialist can help you set up a PASS that must:
  • Be in writing and designed especially for you
  • Identify a specific work goal that you are capable of performing
  • Include a specific timeframe for reaching your work goal
  • Show what income you receive (other than SSI) and how that income will be used to reach your work goal
  • Be approved and reviewed periodically
Young Adults in Transition

Section 301
Continuing Benefits

- If Social Security determines that you no longer have a disabling condition, your benefits usually stop
  - But, if you have assigned your Ticket to an EN or your Ticket is “in use” with a VR agency, your benefits may continue
  - Your participation must be Social Security approved AND
  - Your participation must show progress toward your work goal
When you’re ready to use your Ticket to Work...

Build your **Employment Team** and get the skills and experience you need:

- Employment Network (EN)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency
- Work Incentive Planning & Assistance (WIPA)
- State Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
- Area Work Incentives Coordinator (AWIC)
- Work Incentives Liaison (WIL)
Employment Network
Lisa Parlapiano, Disability Program Navigator
Worksource Florida
When you’re ready to use your Ticket, you can:

- Call the **Ticket to Work Help Line** at 866-968-7842 (voice) or 866-833-2967 (TTY) to speak with a benefits counselor and request a list of Employment Networks that serve your area.
- Visit [www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com) to access a list of Employment Networks near you.
Selecting an Employment Network (EN) to work for you... Ask questions!

Questions You May Want to Ask:

- How many people have you helped through the Ticket to Work program?
- What kinds of companies do you work with for job placements?
- What kinds of jobs might be available to me?
- How often will we communicate and meet?
When you call the EN office, remember these tips

• The EN should explain **how the Ticket program works** and the services it provides

• The EN should discuss your **work goals** and intentions about work

• The EN should talk with you about **any fears you may have**

• You and the EN will develop an **Individual Work Plan** that includes your employment goals and the services the EN will provide to help YOU get there
When you visit the EN office, remember these tips

- Your signature on the Individual Work Plan assigns your Ticket to the EN.
- The EN may have some other routine forms for you to sign allowing it to work with you on your case with Social Security and possibly other service providers on your behalf.
- You can un-assign your Ticket at any time if you change your mind or decide the EN is not a good match.
- Your Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) are exempted as long as you are making timely progress towards employment.
Examples of EN Services

• Develop a resume and provide advice on how to fill out a good application

• Interview skills and tips on how to explain long absences from work without disclosing your disability

• Job accommodation information and resources

• Tax incentive information

• Referrals to other resources in your area
Examples of EN Services

• **Job leads and information** on employers who are hiring, job fairs, recruiting events, etc.

• **Access to resource centers** – computers, internet, email, phones, and fax

• **Job development** on your behalf

• **Referrals to agency partners** and continuity of your Ticket assignment with state VR office
Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

Marie O. Hightower, VR Area Supervisor
Ticket to Work and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

When you use your Ticket for VR services:

• There is Presumptive Eligibility for you as a Social Security beneficiary
• You and your VR counselor develop an employment plan
• Your Ticket is considered “in-use” with VR when you and your counselor sign your employment plan
• Your Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) are exempted as long as you are making timely progress towards employment
• VR will make a referral to a Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) on your behalf
Ticket to Work and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

When you begin to work using your Ticket with VR...

- You and your counselor discuss the opportunity to have an EN provide employment supports when your VR services end
- When VR “closes” your case, you can use your Ticket with an EN for follow-on employment supports and services
Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
Natalie Alden, Advocate/Investigator
Disability Rights Florida
Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS services are:

- Located throughout the States and all U. S. territories
- Designed to help SSI and SSDI beneficiaries with disabilities go to work
- **FREE** to everyone that receives a Social Security benefit or Medicare/Medicaid based on disability
- Available even if you do not have a Ticket or your Ticket is not assigned
Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS assists beneficiaries by:

- Advocating for workplace accommodations
- Advocating for vocational services from Employment Networks or state Vocational Rehabilitation agencies
- Providing information, referral and advocacy around benefits
- Assisting beneficiaries to remove barriers to work
- Addressing overpayment issues
Other Resources
Ray Cebula
Where to Get More Information

Visit:
www.socialsecurity.gov/work to find your local WIPA, Employment Network, and other Ticket to Work and Work Incentives information

Call:
Ticket to Work Help Line:
✓ 866-968-7842 (voice)
✓ 866-833-2967 (TTY)
What are your questions?

Ticket to Work & Work Incentives

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Follow us on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/chooseworkssa

Ticket to Work Help Line: 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 (TTY)