Helping You Today So You Succeed Tomorrow

TICKET TO WORK
FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS
Support On Your Journey to Employment

Work Incentives Seminar Event (WISE)

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2011
Time: 3:00 p.m. EST
Adjusting Audio Mode

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Audio and Questions Panels

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Questions

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Helping You Today
So You Succeed Tomorrow
Webinar Accessibility
1. Welcome and Introduction
   Ray Cebula, Cornell University, Employment & Disability Institute

2. Work Incentive Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Project
   Kendra Berry, Community Work Incentives Coordinator, Aspire, Indiana Works

3. Ticket to Work and Work Incentives
   Kendra Berry

4. Employment Network
   Carla Orr, Job Links Team Leader, ADULT & child

5. Vocational Rehabilitation
   Kristy Cook, Region 3 Manager, Vocational Rehabilitation Services

6. Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
   Sue Beecher, Assistant Director, Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services

7. Other Resources
   Ray Cebula

8. Questions and Answers
   Ray Cebula and Presentation Team
What Can You Expect From This Seminar?

- Information on the Ticket to Work program and Work Incentives
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Where to find more information
- A success story from Megan, a disability beneficiary who used her Ticket to return to work despite her mental illness
Why Should You Work?

- Earn more income
- Gain independence
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
• In 2008, Megan had a major depressive episode and turned to disability benefits to keep her afloat financially
• Ticket to Work helped her achieve a fulfilling life; Megan enjoys working and has returned to competitive ballroom dancing.
Common Concerns

Will I lose my benefits?

How do I get the skills and experience I need?

What if I have to stop working?

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Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Projects

Kendra Berry, Community Work Incentives Coordinator, Aspire, Indiana Works
Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Projects

- WIPA projects are **Social Security approved organizations** that provide FREE services to beneficiaries.
- WIPAs help beneficiaries make informed choices about work.
- WIPA 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 you need to achieve your work goals.
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 Benefits Programs

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Concurrent (SSDI and SSI)

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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?

Change can be scary but a lot less scary when you know some basic program rules!
Debunking the Three Biggest Myths

#1

If I try to go to work, I will automatically lose my Medicare or Medicaid.
Debunking the Three Biggest Myths

#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

Kendra Berry
What is Ticket to Work?

- A FREE and VOLUNTARY program that helps Social Security disability beneficiaries make informed decisions about going to work.

- Most people with disabilities age 18 to 64 who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can participate in Ticket to Work.
### 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>
When you’re ready to explore work, take these first steps:

- **Call the Ticket to Work Help Line** at 1-866-968-7842 (voice) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTYTDD) and ask for a list of Employment Networks near you.
- **Visit** [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work) and to find a Work Incentives service provider.
- **Meet with a benefits counselor** at your local Work Incentive Planning & Assistance (WIPA) project to discuss your goals.
- **Stay connected** to your new employment team experts as you explore your work options.
Work Incentives
Kendra Berry
What are Work Incentives?
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Incentive</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trial Work Period (TWP)</strong> (SSDI recipients only)</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)</strong> (SSDI recipients only)</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Earned Income Exclusion (EIE)</strong> (SSI recipients only)</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)</strong> (SSDI and SSI recipients)</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protection from Medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR)</strong> (SSDI and SSI recipients)</td>
<td>You will not have to undergo a medical continuing disability review (CDR) while you are participating in the Ticket to Work program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When You’re Ready to Use Your Ticket to Work, Build Your Employment Team

Ticket to Work experts are representatives from a variety of resources and agencies:

- Employment Network (EN)
- State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency
- Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Project
- State Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
- Area Work Incentives Coordinator (AWIC)
Employment Network

Carla Orr, Job Links Team Leader, ADULT & child
When you’re ready to use your Ticket, use any of these resources to locate an EN near you:

• Call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 (voice) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD) to speak with a benefits counselor and request a list of Employment Networks in your area.

• Visit www.yourtickettowork.com to access a list of Employment Networks near you.

• Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work to access the Service Provider list of Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Projects in your area.
Select an Employment Network That’s Right For You

After you’ve located a few ENs near you, choose one that can answer your employment questions:

- 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?
Know the Employment Network’s Responsibilities For You

Your EN is required to provide FREE services to help you meet your goals:

• The EN will explain the Ticket program and the services it provides.

• The EN will discuss your work goals, both short- and long-term intentions.

• The EN will talk with you about fears you might have.

• The EN will help you develop an Individual Work Plan that includes your employment goals and the services the EN will continue to provide.

• The EN ensures your Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) are exempted as long as you are making timely progress toward employment.

Ticket to Work Work Incentives

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Know Your Responsibilities for the Employment Network

You also have specific responsibilities when you work with an EN:

• **Be honest** about your work history and future work intentions.

• **Assign your Ticket** to your EN by signing your Individual Work Plan.

• **Sign any other routine forms** that will allow your EN to work on your behalf with Social Security.

• **Work with your EN to make timely progress** toward your employment goals.

• When you begin work, **provide paystubs to your EN** every month.

• **Report** (or ask your EN to report) **your job earnings** to Social Security.
Examples of EN Services

- Resume preparation and job application advice
- Interview skills and tips on how to explain long absences from work without disclosing your disability
- Access to resources (computer, internet, email, phone, fax)
- Job leads on prospective employers, job fairs, and recruiting events
- Job accommodation information
- Career development opportunities
- Tax incentive information
- Referrals to other resources.
An Employment Network Example: Services for People Who Have a Mental Illness

Some Employment Networks provide mental illness-specific job services and support.

• Our center offers Evidenced Based & Best Practices training to all our staff so they are equipped to work with you through.
  • Illness management and recovery
  • Motivational interviewing
• Our training opportunities and Work Incentives Planning & Assistance knowledge allow us to share more Social Security, Ticket program information with you, our beneficiaries.
• And we are just one Employment Network example!
State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (VR) Services

Kristy Cook, M.Ed.

Region 3 Manager Vocational Rehabilitation Services
When you use your Ticket for State VR Agency 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 toward employment.
When you begin to work using your Ticket with a State VR Agency:

- The VR Agency “closes” your case.
- Your VR counselor will make a referral to a Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) on your behalf.
- Your VR counselor helps you assign your Ticket to an EN that will provide FREE follow-on services.
Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

Sue Beecher, Assistant Director, Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services
Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

PABSS services are:

- Located throughout the United States and its territories.
- Designed to help SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with disabilities go to work.
- FREE to everyone that receives Social Security benefits or Medicare/Medicaid based on disability.
- Available even if you do not have a Ticket or your Ticket is not assigned.
PABSS assists beneficiaries by:

- **Advocating** for workplace accommodations.
- **Coordinating** vocational services from Employment Networks or State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies.
- **Providing** information, referrals, and benefits counseling.
- **Assisting** beneficiaries to remove work barriers.
- **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 & Work Incentives resources.

Call:
Ticket to Work Help Line:
✓ 1-866-968-7842 (voice)
✓ 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD)
What Are Your Questions?

Ticket to Work & Work Incentives

Like us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/choosework
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