Helping You Today So You Succeed Tomorrow

TICKET TO WORK
FOR AMERICA’S VETERANS
Free Services for Those Who Served

Work Incentives Seminar Event (WISE)

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Time: 3:00 p.m. EST
Adjusting Audio Mode

Audio Mode: Use Mic & Speakers

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Helping You Today
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Audio and Questions Panels

Audio Mode:
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Talking: Suzie Smith

Questions Log
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- A: Yes! We will send you more info after the event.
- Yes

Webinar Now
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Agenda

• Welcome and Introduction
  Ray Cebula, Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University

• Veterans Affairs Welcome & Remarks
  Georgia Coffee, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion

• Work Incentives Planning & Assistance
  Mike Rowe, Tennessee Disability Coalition

• The Ticket to Work Program
  Mike Rowe

• Social Security Disability Benefits & Work Incentives
  Mike Rowe

• Employment Network
  Jeff Lilley, National Director, Back to Work Services

• Resources

• Locating Your Employment Team
  Ray Cebula

• Answers to Your Questions
  Ray Cebula & Presentation Team
Welcome from the Veterans Affairs
Georgia Coffee, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion
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 Billy, a retired Marine who used his Ticket to return to work despite his disability.
Why Choose Work?

As a Veteran you have much to offer employers

- Skills and experience
- Discipline and teamwork
- Courage and resilience

As a Veteran you have much to gain from working

- Financial Independence
- A successful civilian life
- New relationships
Ticket to Work
For You!

Billy’s Success Story

• Billy carried the flag for his Marine Corps Unit.
• His physical injuries led to emotional and financial distress.
• Billy wants his fellow Veterans to know that the Ticket Program works.
Common Concerns

Will I lose my benefits?

How do I get the skills and experience I need?

What if I have to stop working?
Social Security Has A Veterans Benefits Application Process

Know the application process tailored to you.

- Active duty status and your military pay should not stop you from applying for Social Security disability benefits.

- Whether you are still hospitalized, in a rehabilitation program, or undergoing out-patient treatment, you can apply for disability benefits at any time.

- **Social Security expedites your application through all phases of processing.**
Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA)
Mike Rowe, Tennessee Disability Coalition
WIPA projects are Social Security approved organizations that provide FREE services to beneficiaries.

WIPAs help beneficiaries make informed choices about work.

The WIPA Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC):

- Is 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
The Ticket to Work Program
Mike Rowe, Tennessee Disability Coalition
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.

• People ages 18 through 64 who have a disability and receive SSDI and/or SSI benefits are eligible to participate in the Ticket 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>
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</tbody>
</table>
Anyone who receives disability benefits can use Social Security’s many work incentives.

Using your **Ticket to Work gives you additional benefits:**

- Ticket to Work gives you a choice of where to get your vocational services.
- After you assign your Ticket and make timely progress toward your work goals, your Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) are deferred.
Ticket to Work: The Three Most Common Myths

#1

If I try to go to work, I will automatically lose my Medicare or Medicaid.
Ticket to Work: The Three Most Common 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.
Ticket to Work: The Three Most Common 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.
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 http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work to find a WIPA near you.
Social Security Disability Benefits & Work Incentives
Mike Rowe, Tennessee Disability Coalition
There Are Two Social Security Disability Benefits Programs

- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Social Security Disability Benefits Programs:

SSDI

- You are an SSDI beneficiary if you have a disability and a work history during which you paid into Social Security
- Your contributions were based on your earnings
Social Security Disability Benefits Programs:

SSI

• You receive SSI cash benefits if you have limited income and resources and have not worked enough to have paid into Social Security.
• Less than half of your earnings are counted by Social Security as earned income.
Social Security Disability Benefits Programs:

Some Beneficiaries Receive Both SSDI and SSI

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

Helping You Today  
So You Succeed Tomorrow
What Are Work Incentives?

Work Incentives are special program rules and considerations that protect your benefits and health care while you try work.

- *Rules and considerations* refer to what is available to you based on which Social Security disability benefits you receive.
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Incentive</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trial Work Period (TWP)</strong></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></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></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></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></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>
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When You’re Ready To Use Your Ticket to Work...

Build your Employment Team and get the skills and experience you need!

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

Jeff Lilley, National Director, Back to Work Services
Services You Can Expect From An EN

- **Interview skills** and tips on how to explain long absences from work without disclosing your disability
- **Job application advice** and resume preparation
- **Job leads** on prospective employers, job fairs, and recruiting events
- **Job training**, development, and accommodations
Your EN is ready to provide FREE services to help you meet your goals:

- The EN can explain the Ticket program and the services it provides.
- The EN can discuss your work goals, both short- and long-term intentions.
- The EN can talk with you about fears you might have.
- The EN can help you develop an Individual Work Plan that includes your employment goals and the services the EN will continue to provide.
- The EN can make a referral to a WIPA on your behalf.
What You Can Do For Your EN

Your EN is equipped to work with you when you share your employment goals.

- Talk 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.
- Provide paystubs to your EN after you begin work.
Questions You Should Ask An EN

You can speak with a number of ENs. Be sure to ask the EN specific 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?

Choose the EN that best fits your needs.
Resources
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers several programs related to vocational rehabilitation and employment. Visit [http://www.vetsuccess.gov](http://www.vetsuccess.gov) to learn more.

VA for Vets facilitates the reintegration, retention and hiring of Veteran employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Visit [http://vaforvets.va.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://vaforvets.va.gov/Pages/default.aspx) to learn more.
The Social Security Administration’s website features information on disability benefits for wounded warriors. Visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors to learn more.

Where To Find Your Employment Team
Where To Find Your Employment Team

When you’re ready to use your Ticket, locate a WIPA, EN, VR, or PABSS 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 service providers in your area.

- **Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work** to find a WIPA, EN, VR, or PABSS as well as additional Ticket to Work information.
What Are Your Questions?

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

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

Ticket to Work Help Line: 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD)