

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Ticket to Work Fact Sheet

www.dors.maryland.gov

Ticket to Work is a Social Security Administration (SSA) program that connects people with disabilities who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) with Employment Networks (ENs) or the state public Vocational Rehabilitation program (DORS) which coordinate and provide appropriate services to help you find and maintain employment. These services can include training, career counseling, vocational rehabilitation, job placement, benefits planning, and ongoing support services necessary to achieve a work goal. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) participates in the Ticket to Work program and has assisted many individuals with disabilities who receive SSDI and SSI benefits to return to work, often earning more than the amount of their cash benefits.

If you receive Social Security disability benefits and are between the ages of 18 and 64, you are likely eligible for the Ticket to Work program. Your DORS counselor can help you find out more about available services for Ticket Holders.

How will the Ticket to Work program help you?

- You may be able to receive services and/or develop skills that will help you to find a job with health benefits and earnings greater than your SSDI or SSI check.
- SSA will not conduct a Continuing Disability Review (CDR), which determines if you will continue to receive benefits based on your disability, if your Ticket is “In-Use” with DORS or an EN and you meet SSA’s Timely Progress requirements. For more information see: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10062.pdf

Your Ticket to Work and DORS Services:

- **Assigning your Ticket:** If your Ticket is currently assigned to an Employment Network (EN), DORS staff will work with you and your EN to assure that there is coordination of services leading to employment. According to Social Security rules, if your Ticket is available for assignment, then completing and signing your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and receiving services from DORS means that your Ticket is “In Use” with DORS. DORS will work with you to develop an IPE to achieve employment based on your goals.
- **Obtaining and maintaining employment:** While your DORS case is open your DORS counselor will provide you the opportunity to connect with a benefits planner to help you take advantage of the SSA work incentives available to you to gain and maintain employment. Your DORS counselor and benefits planner will also speak with you about opportunities to assign your Ticket to Work with an Employment Network (EN) after your DORS case has closed. These Employment Networks provide employment supports to help you maintain or advance your career as well as address any continuing benefits questions resulting from your employment.
- **After DORS Services:** After you achieve employment and your case with DORS is closed, your Ticket will be taken out of “In Use” status. At this point, you may choose to assign your Ticket to an EN and provided you continue to meet SSA’s Timely Progress requirements, SSA will not schedule you for a Continuing Disability Review. The Social Security Administration may also reach out to you directly to determine if you require assistance and allow you to opt in/out of receiving marketing materials directly from Employment Networks once your DORS case has closed. Finally, even if your case is closed unsuccessfully with DORS, you may still assign your Ticket to another agency.

Working with an Employment Network does NOT mean you need to disclose your disability to an employer unless you choose to.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Do I need my paper Ticket?**

While SSA does mail a paper Ticket to Work and a packet of information to each beneficiary, you do not need to have the paper Ticket to access DORS services. DORS will work with SSA to ensure your Ticket is available and assignable for use with DORS.

- **Do I have to use my Ticket?**

No, SSA does not require that you use or assign your Ticket to an EN or DORS. However, if you sign a plan for services with DORS, SSA considers your Ticket to be “In Use” with DORS.

- **Are there any costs to participate in the Ticket to Work program?**

No. The program is free and voluntary.

- **Does assigning my Ticket to DORS adversely affect my benefits?**

No. In fact, it provides certain protections such as Continuing Disability Review exemption and can assist you in accessing important services such as benefits planning.

- **How will working affect my benefits?**

Social Security’s Ticket to Work program has special provisions called work incentives that make it easier for you to work, increase your earnings, maintain your medical coverage, and improve your standard of living. If your cash benefits cease and should your employment situation change, these work incentives can help you restart your cash benefits if you cannot continue working because of your disability. Furthermore:

- If you currently receive Medicare, there are special provisions for you to remain eligible for at least 93 months after you achieve certain earning levels.
- If you receive Medical Assistance (Medicaid), there are several provisions to extend your coverage after employment.
- If you currently don’t receive Medicaid, you may be able to access it through a program known as Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) once you begin working.
- Your DORS counselor can refer you to an SSA trained expert known as a Benefits Planner who will answer your questions regarding how work may impact your SSA benefits and describe supports SSA has in place to help you return to work.

Where can I get more information?

For information on the Ticket to Work Program and Employment Networks:

- Call **1-866-YOURTICKET (1-866-968-7842)** or for TTY/TDD call **1-866-833-2967** between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time (Monday through Friday).
- Or visit online at: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/> or <https://www.ssa.gov/work/>.

For DORS information:

- Visit: <http://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/benefits/Pages/ticket.aspx>
- Or contact a DORS Ticket Coordinator at 410-554-9460.

For EID information:

- <http://mmcp.dhmf.maryland.gov/eid/Pages/Home.aspx>