

Maryland State Department of Education  
**Division of Rehabilitation Services**  
**Ticket to Work**

The **Ticket to Work** program helps people with disabilities who get Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). It connects them with community providers called Employment Networks (EN) or the state's Vocational Rehabilitation program, like DORS. These groups offer support and services to help people get ready for work and find a job

If you get Social Security disability benefits and you're between 18 and 64 years old, you may be able to join the Ticket to Work program. Your DORS counselor can tell you more about the help and services you can get through the program.

### **How can the Ticket to Work program help you?**

- You might be able to get help and learn new skills that can lead to a job with health benefits and more money than your SSDI or SSI check.
- If you're using your Ticket with DORS or an EN and making good progress, Social Security won't do a review to see if you still qualify for disability benefits (called a Continuing Disability Review) – as long as you also reply to any letters they send you.
- For more information, see SSA Publication [Your Ticket to Work: What You Need to Know to Keep It Working for You](#).

### **Your Ticket to Work and DORS Services**

#### **Assigning your Ticket**

If your Ticket is assignable:

- It becomes “In Use” when you sign your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and start getting services from DORS.
- DORS will help you create this plan based on the kind of job you want.
- If you're already using your Ticket with an EN, DORS will work with that group to make sure everything is coordinated.

## **Employment**

While you are working with DORS, they'll use your Ticket to provide services that help you reach your job goals. These services can include:

- Job training
- Career counseling
- Job placement
- Job coaching
- Benefits planning (see [Work Incentives for Beneficiaries of SSI and/or SSDI \(RS-1k\)](#))

## **After DORS Services:**

After you get a job and your DORS case closes:

- Your Ticket will no longer be “In Use” with DORS.
- Social Security will send you a letter explaining how to assign your Ticket to another agency.
- You don't have to assign your Ticket again unless you want more help.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

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

You don't have to use your Ticket if you don't want to. Social Security doesn't make you assign it to an EN or to DORS. But if you sign a plan to get services from DORS, then Social Security sees your Ticket as being "In Use" with DORS.

### **Is there a cost to join the Ticket to Work program?**

Nope! The program is free and voluntary. You don't have to pay anything, and you don't have to join if you don't want to.

### **Will using my Ticket with DORS hurt my benefits?**

No. In fact, it can actually protect your benefits. For example, if your Ticket is "In Use," you may not have to go through a review to check if you still qualify for disability. DORS can also help you with things like benefits planning.

### **What happens to my benefits if I start working?**

The Ticket to Work program has built-in protections called "work incentives." These help you:

- Try working without immediately losing your benefits.
- Earn more money.
- Keep your health insurance.
- Get your cash benefits back if you have to stop working because of your disability.

Here's a bit more detail about healthcare benefits:

- If you have Medicare, you may be able to keep it for at least 93 months after you start earning more.

- If you get Medicaid, there are ways to keep it even after you start working.
- If you don't have Medicaid now, you might qualify for it through a program called Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) once you get a job.

### **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) 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- For callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, call 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)
- Visit SSA online at: [choosework.ssa.gov](http://choosework.ssa.gov) or [ssa.gov/work](http://ssa.gov/work).

For more information about DORS and the Ticket to Work Program:

- Visit the [DORS website](#).
- Or contact a DORS Ticket Coordinator at 410-554-9460.

For information about the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program:

- Visit the Maryland Department of Health website: [health.maryland.gov/mmcp/eid/](http://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/eid/)