

PEATC
Parent Educational Advocacy
Training Center



Virginia's NEXT STEPS Transition Program for
Families, Youths, and Professionals:
Building Effective Partnerships and Accessing
Resources

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The NEW Ticket To Work
New Program, New Opportunities
What's In It for Young People

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Overview

- Learn how young people receiving Social Security disability benefits can
 - Access multiple community partners to achieve their employment goals
 - Obtain services and supports to get & keep a job
 - Participate in the Ticket to Work program and work towards greater financial independence can be a resource for youth with disabilities who are interested in getting and keeping a job
 - Use Work Incentive programs to reduce their countable income and continue receiving disability benefits while they explore work

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Social Security Disability Benefits and Work

- Don't Believe Everything You Hear!
 - Get the facts!
 - Learn about SSA Work Incentives!
 - Take Advantage of community resources!

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Get the Facts!

- There are many myths about disability benefits and work
 - Myth: "If I go to work, I will lose my health care coverage."

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Extension of Medical Coverage

- Beneficiaries can get extended healthcare benefits after they return to work
 - Ticket legislation allows for up to 93 months of “extended Medicare coverage” after a beneficiary goes to work
 - After the 93 months, many beneficiaries can continue to receive Medicare coverage by paying a premium



Medicaid Extensions

- Many people are eligible to continue receiving Medicaid even after they stop receiving SSI benefits as a result of work
- To continue receiving Medicaid coverage, a person must
 - Still have a disability, and
 - Have earnings below the amount set by your state
- If the above does not apply, there are two different programs that provide individual states the option of providing Medicaid benefits while a beneficiary is working – Referred to as a Medicaid Buy-In



Another Myth

“If I go to work, get off disability benefits and later lose my job, I will have to reapply and wait to get back on benefits.”



Quick Reinstatement to Benefits

- If a person goes to work and later stops working due to his/her disability, there is an “Expedited Reinstatement to Benefits”
- Quick access to up to 6 months of “provisional” benefits while SSA does a review of the person’s medical history to confirm that s/he still meets SSA’s eligibility standards for disability benefits
- The beneficiary does not have to repay the “provisional” benefits received (except in cases of fraud)



Take Advantage of SSA Work Incentives?

- Work Incentives are SSA rules that help people keep their disability benefits while they explore work
- By using Work Incentives a person can make more money, gain new skills, & achieve greater independence through work



Examples of Work Incentives

- Trial Work Period (TWP) (SSDI only)
 - The TWP allows you to test your ability to work for at least 9 months.
- Extended Period of Eligibility (SSDI only)
 - For 36 months after the TWP SSA may restart your SSDI benefits without:
 - a new application,
 - disability determination,
 - or waiting period.
- Earned Income Exclusion (SSI only)
 - Less than half of earned income is counted by SSA as earnings in determining amount of benefit check.



SSA Has Other Work Incentive Programs

- Two Work Incentive programs of particular interest to youth with disabilities
- Impairment-Related Work Expenses: SSA deducts the cost of certain "impairment-related" items and services that a person needs to work
 - Deduction is taken from gross earnings to reduce the person's countable earnings when determining performance of Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)
- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE only): Generous earnings exclusions for youth under age 22 who regularly attend school



Learn More About Disability Benefits & Work Incentives?

- Learn more about SSA's two disability programs
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Visit the SSA web site at: www.socialsecurity.gov/
- Read the SSA Redbook: Provides a brief description of all SSA Work Incentives, including information on who is eligible for each
 - Redbook: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook/>



Social Security Disability Benefits & Work

- Take advantage services & supports available through community partners
- Benefits Planning: One of most valuable services available to beneficiaries with disabilities
 - WIPA: Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (BPAO)
 - SSA Specialists
 - AWICs: Area Work Incentives Coordinators
 - WILS: Work Incentive Liaison Specialists
- Advocacy Services: Information and advocacy services when needed
 - PABSS (P&A for Beneficiaries of Social Security)



WIPA Projects

- Local community partners with trained staff that
 - Explain how a young person's Social Security disability benefits will be affected by work and earnings
 - Are familiar with how other state and local benefits are likely to be affected by work
 - Are familiar with the community services & supports available to help individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment
 - Find the WIPA serving your local community at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/>



SSA Specialists

- Area Work Incentives Specialists (AWICS) & Work Incentive Liaisons (WILS)
- Social Security has a team of Work Incentives specialists to ensure that beneficiaries receive
 - Accurate information about returning to work
 - Assistance in processing info on work activity
- Find the AWIC serving your local area at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/awiccontacts.html>



Protection & Advocacy Services

- Protection & Advocacy Systems receiving funded from SSA to provide
- Information, advocacy services & legal advice to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities, including young people receiving Social Security disability benefits
- Information & support during the job application process, and following job placement



Take Advantage of Employment-Related Services

- Two SSA programs provide compensation to services providers who are successful in assisting beneficiaries with disabilities to enter and maintain employment
 - Cost Reimbursement Program
 - Ticket to Work Program



VR Cost Reimbursement Program

- Cost Reimbursement Program
 - Established in 1981
 - Available only to State VR agencies
 - Reimburses for the costs of services provided to a beneficiary when services result in 9 months of substantial work activity



Ticket to Work Program

- An outcome-based program
- Not reimbursement for cost of services provided
- Designed to provides beneficiaries with disabilities increased choices for obtaining services & supports to get & keep a job



Who Can Participate in the Ticket Program?

- Individuals, ages 18 through 64, who are receiving Social Security disability benefits under
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Referred to as “Ticket Holders”
- Young person must first go through the 18-year old re-determination based on adult standards for disability



How Does the Ticket Program Work?

- SSA pays participating Employment Networks (ENs) and State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies when the Ticket Holders they are serving achieve certain work-related Milestones and Outcomes



Goals of the Ticket Program

- Increase self-sufficiency of beneficiaries with disabilities
- Reduce or eliminate reliance on Social Security disability benefits
- Increase independence
- Improve quality of life



Key Features of Interest to Ticket Holders

- Ticket program is voluntary
 - No penalty for not participating
- Ticket program is free
 - Employment Networks (ENs) cannot charge for services provided under Ticket program
- Participation in the program can postpone regularly scheduled medical reviews



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Another Myth

- “If I go to work, Social Security will conduct a review & I will lose my benefits.”
 - SSA conducts periodic Medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) to determine if a person continues to be eligible for disability benefits based on his/her disability or medical condition
 - Participation in the Ticket program and progressing towards one’s employment goals will postpone regularly scheduled medical CDRs

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Other Features of Interest to Ticket Holder

- Ticket Holders get to choose where to seek assistance
- State VR agency
 - Automatic ENs under the Ticket legislation
- Approved Employment Network (EN)
 - Organizations apply to SSA to become ENs
 - Service Providers (traditional/non-traditional)
 - Government agencies (state and local)
 - educational institutions
 - employers

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What Types of Services & Supports Do ENs Provide?

- Counseling/Guidance/Career exploration
- Education/training - voc, tech, postsecondary
- Job search/job placement services
- Job coaching/ongoing support services

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What Types of Services & Supports Do ENs Provide?

- Work adjustment counseling
- Job retention/follow-along services
- Other supports & services based on individualized needs

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What About ENs that Work with Youth?

- EN working with young Ticket Holder will want to explore his/her
 - Interests, skills, abilities & aptitudes
 - Prior education, training & work experience
- EN working with young Ticket Holder may discuss
 - Labor market and specific jobs that are of interest & in line with the young person’s skills/aptitudes
 - Any fears/misinformation about working

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What About Ens that Work with Youth?

- An EN working with a young Ticket Holder may help with:
 - Independent living skills
 - Financial Management
 - Orientation and mobility training
 - Transportation to and from work



ENs Working with Youth (cont)

- EN might help young Ticket Holder become job-ready by
 - Identifying strategies to overcome barriers to employment
 - Helping the young person develop confidence in his/her skills and abilities
 - Assisting the young person to develop appropriate personal and work behaviors
 - Providing opportunities to gain work experience (internships, volunteer experiences, PT work)



How Does a Person Participate in the Ticket to Work Program?

- A paper Ticket is mailed when disability benefits are approved
 - Paper Ticket is not needed to participate
 - Confirm Ticket eligibility by calling
- MAXIMUS
866-968-7842 (v)
866-833-2967 (tty)



How Does a Ticket Holder Find an EN?

- A Ticket-eligible youth
- Can find the ENs serving his/her area by
 - Visiting MAXIMUS' web site at www.yourtickettowork.com
 - Calling MAXIMUS at (866)968-7842 (v) or (866)833-2967 (tty)



How Does a Ticket Holder Find an EN?

- Can discuss his/her employment goal & the services & supports needed to achieve that goal with as many ENs as desired without assigning his/her Ticket



How Has Working with the State VR Agency Changed?

- Under prior Ticket regs, SSA could compensate VR agency "or" an EN for successfully serving a Ticket Holder -- Not both!
- Under new Ticket regs, both VR and EN can provide services & receive payments on behalf of the same Ticket Holder in certain situations
 - VR Cost Reimbursement cases only
 - Provision of services must be sequential, not concurrent
- Referred to as "Partnership Plus"



Ticket to Work Case Example

- Bridget is a 24 year-old Ticket Holder
- SSI recipient; CP; Recent HS grad
- Assigned Ticket to WU HS Dist (an EN)
- WU did a person-centered planning session
 - Bridget was interested in computers and had good organizational and communication skills
 - WU and Bridget developed an Individual Work Plan
 - Employment goal was customer services rep



Ticket to Work Case Example

- WIPA provided benefits planning services and WU provided job development and placement services, and intensive services coordination
- WU placed Bridget in a customer services position



Ticket to Work Case Example

- John is a 22 year-old Ticket Holder
- SSI recipient; Downs syndrome, Completed HS year ago
- Assigned Ticket to WU HS District (an EN)
- WU did a person-centered planning session
 - John's goal was to work & live in his own home
- WIPA provided benefits planning services and WU connected John with a number of internship opportunities and enrolled him in workshops provided by WU



Ticket to Work Case Example

- John was eventually placed with a grocery store where he bags groceries, retrieves carts, picks up and delivers products to designated areas, and assists with stocking shelves
- WU working with John to identify bus routes to go to work and to apply for a reduced fare bus card



Beneficiary Outreach Through WISE Events

- WISE events are Work Incentive Seminar conducted by Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Program (WIPA) in your area
- Beneficiaries in the local area are invited
- Local ENs, the State VR agency and other community partners are encouraged to attend



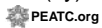
Beneficiary Outreach Through WISE Events

- Beneficiaries hear about SSA Work Incentives & Ticket to Work program
- Opportunity for Ticket Holders to meet with ENs, CWIC, AWIC and representatives of other community partners
- Find out about upcoming WISE events in your area at <http://www.cessi.net/wise/> or call 1-877-743-8237



For More Information

- Social Security disability benefits:
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>
- Ticket to Work program:
 - SSA's Work Site at:
www.socialsecurity.gov/work
 - CESSI's web site at www.cessi.net/ttw/, or call CESSI at 1-877-743-8237
 - MAXIMUS' web site at www.yourtickettowork.com, or call MAXIMUS at 1-866-968-7842 (v) or 1-866-833-2967 (tty)



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