



Iowa
**Vocational
Rehabilitation**
Services

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Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Beneficiary Fact Sheet on the Ticket to Work Program

What is the “Ticket to Work” program?

Ticket to Work (TTW) is a program for individuals who want to go to work. TTW is a voluntary program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as a work incentive. Individual beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and up to full retirement age who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and are interested in going to work are eligible for the TTW program. The goal of the TTW program is to assist beneficiaries in obtaining employment and working towards becoming self-sufficient.

How do I know if I am eligible for the TTW program?

Talk with your Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) counselor who will help you contact the program manager of the TTW program for “Ticket” information. If you are between the ages of 18 and up to full retirement age and receive SSI or SSDI, you are eligible to have a Ticket. You do not need an actual paper Ticket to participate in the TTW program. To learn more about your eligibility for a Ticket, you can call the Beneficiary Access and Support Services, BASS, the Ticket to Work program manager for Beneficiaries toll-free at 866-968-7842.

What is the benefit of the TTW?

The advantage of the Ticket to a SSI and SSDI beneficiary is it defers medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) with SSA while you are participating in a planned program of rehabilitation services. This is allowed only if you are following an approved plan of rehabilitation services that will result in employment, and are making timely progress. Your IVRS counselor will help you understand the Timely Progress Review (TPR) benchmarks and what to do with the TPR letter when you receive one. You will also have the benefit of expanding your financial resources as a result of wages you earn by working.

What do I need to do?

If you are interested in working, you need to decide that you want to work with IVRS to access vocational rehabilitation, training, and placement services. If you decline to work with IVRS, you can talk to other Employment Networks (EN) to find out what services they may be able to provide to you. Your Ticket cannot be assigned to IVRS and another EN at the same time. If you sign your plan for employment services from IVRS, your Ticket will automatically be used by IVRS.

What happens if I choose IVRS?

You will be assigned an IVRS counselor who will work with you to identify your interests, abilities, and the services you need to prepare you for a job in your local community. Together you become a team with your counselor and other IVRS staff, and others you choose to be involved in your rehabilitation plan. As a team, you will participate in activities to help you reach an employment goal that you and your IVRS counselor agree upon. You may receive a variety of services from IVRS which are directly tied to your job goal and approved by your IVRS counselor.

When you and your counselor sign your employment plan, your Ticket will be considered to be “in-use” by IVRS. If your Ticket is currently assigned to another EN, it will be necessary to have it unassigned while you are receiving services from IVRS. Your IVRS counselor will assist you in completing this process.

What happens after my IVRS file is closed?

IVRS staff will discuss having your Ticket assigned to another EN when your IVRS file is closed in order for you to continue to receive support services. The new EN of your choice will be assigned your Ticket at that time. ENs are great resources to you because they provide you with ongoing support services, job retention services and supports to help you keep your job and increase your earnings. By continuing participation in the Ticket program and assigning your Ticket to an EN, you are protected from a Continuing Disability Review, as long as timely progress is made.

What are work incentives?

Work incentives allow people with disabilities to maintain their benefits while exploring work opportunities and employment. Work incentives remove the barriers to work by providing a safety-net of supports so a beneficiary can find meaningful employment and succeed in the workplace. The TTW program can be used with other work incentives that are available to SSA beneficiaries.

To learn more about the Ticket to Work program, contact:

BASS, Beneficiary Access and Support Services toll-free at 1-866-968-7842.

Check out the Ticket to Work website: www.yourtickettowork.com

Employment Network information can be found at the “*Choose Work*” website: <http://www.chooseworkttw.net/>

Social Security Administration (SSA): answers TTW or SSA questions: 1-800-772-1213 (Voice) or 1-800-325-0778 (TDD). SSA Ticket to Work web site: www.ssa.gov/work.

Timely Progress Guidelines

During Each 12-month Progress Review Period

1st-12 (after 12 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 3 months of work at Trial Work Level (TWL), OR**
- Complete a GED or high school diploma, **OR**
 - Complete 60% of a full-time course load for an academic year in a college or technical/trade/vocational training program, **OR**
 - Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

2nd -12 (13-24 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 6 months of work at Trial Work Level (TWL), OR**
- Complete 75% of a full-time course load for an academic year in a college or technical/trade/vocational training program, **OR**
 - Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

3rd-12 (25-36 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 9 months or work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level, OR**
- Complete an additional full-time academic year of study, **OR**
 - Complete a 2-year or 4-year college program, **OR**
 - Complete a 2-year technical/trade/vocational training program, **OR**
 - Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

4th-12 (37-48 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 9 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level, OR**
- Complete an additional academic year of full-time study, **OR**
 - Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

5th-12 (49-60 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked, OR**
- Complete an additional academic year of full-time study, **OR**
 - Complete a 4-year degree program

6th-12 (61-72 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level with no SSDI and/ or SSI cash benefits in months worked, OR**
- Complete a 4-year degree program

7th-12 (73-84 months of ticket use)

- months** • **Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked ***

***The guidelines for any subsequent 12-month Progress Review are the same as for the 7th 12-month Progress Review.**