



Ticket to Work 101 & DHS EN Project

Overview 2014



Major Components of the Ticket to Work Program

- Ticket
- Social Security Administration
- MAXIMUS (Ticket Administrator)
- Beneficiaries
- Employment Networks/VR Agencies
- Individual Work Plans
- EN Payment Systems

Sample Ticket

**Social Security
Administration**

Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency

Ticket Number
123-45-6789TW

Claim Account Number: 987-65-4321 W

Issue Date:



This ticket is issued to you by the Social Security Administration under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. If you want help in returning to work or going to work for the first time, you may offer this ticket to an Employment Network of your choosing or take it to your State vocational rehabilitation agency for services. If you choose an Employment Network and it agrees to take your ticket, or if you choose your State agency and you qualify for services, these providers can offer you services to help you go to work.

An Employment Network provides the services at no cost to you. The Social Security Administration will pay the Employment Network if you assign your ticket to it, and the Employment Network helps you go to work and complies with other requirements of the Program. An Employment Network serving under the Program has agreed to abide by the rules and regulations of the Program under the terms of its agreement with the Social Security Administration for providing services under the Program. Your State agency can tell you about its rules for getting services.

James B. Baird

Commissioner of Social Security

What is the Ticket to a Beneficiary?

- Give SSA beneficiaries the ability to choose where to go for employment services.
- Give them protection from SSA medical review.
 - Protection applies once they assign the ticket and have entered into a work plan with an Employment Network (EN) (or “in plan” status with VR.)

Who can receive a Ticket?



Ticket eligible beneficiaries are:

- 18-64 1/2 years old
- Currently receiving cash benefits with SSI (Title II) and/or SSDI (Title XVI)

Beneficiary Participation

- Ticket Program is a voluntary employment program
- Beneficiaries will not be penalized for choosing not to use their ticket
- In choosing to participate, beneficiaries may or will assign their ticket to the EN/State VR of their choice

Beneficiary Participation

If the Beneficiary chooses to come to a State VR office for employment services then:

- The client's Ticket will be automatically assigned to the VR agency once an employment plan (IPE) is in place.
- The Ticket will not be unassigned until VR case closure.

What is a Ticket to a Provider?

The ticket provides evidence of Social Security Administration's (SSA's) agreement to pay the eligible service providers (VR and other Employment Networks) that have provided employment services to a beneficiary who has reached specific wage levels.

Employment Networks

- Public or private agencies that are approved by SSA to provide employment services to a beneficiary in support of an employment goal.
- Two payment options available to ENs:
 - Milestone/Outcome Payments
 - Outcome Payments



State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (VR)

- Mandatory participant in the TTW program.
- Can function as a general VR agency or as a TTW Employment Network.
- Three payment options:
 - Milestone/Outcome Payments
 - Outcome Payments
 - Cost Reimbursement (VR Only)

What is an Individual Plan for Employment?

- A signed agreement between the client and VR that outlines their employment goals and services.
- The TTW is not used or assigned to VR until the IPE is in place.

DHS EN Project: SHOW ME THE MONEY!



- ❖ Oregon VR has chosen to give agencies working with DHS a venue to obtain TTW monies (including IPS Supported Employment agencies!)
- ❖ VR facilitates the process and has become the fiscal agent for obtaining these funds.

VR/EN Agreement – Mental Health

In an effort to build the MH Supported Employment programs, VR chose to start this project with OSECE.

- IPS programs must be current vendors with Oregon VR.
- Programs refer clients to VR for services as usual.
- The IPS program then must send the clients' names to the TTW Coordinator, preferably monthly, so that the TTW program can be initiated.
- VR will assign the ticket and monitor for potential payments.
- **VR pays the IPS program a pre-established percentage of any TTW payments received for the clients reported.**

EN Milestone/Outcome Payments - 2014

- Phase 1 – 4 payments of \$1,357 = \$5,428
- Phase 2 – SSDI = 11 pay of \$407 = \$4,477
- Phase 2 – SSI = 18 Pay of \$234 = \$4,212
- Outcome–SSDI = 36 pay of \$407 = \$14,652
- Outcome – SSI = 60 pay of \$234 = \$14,040

Total SSDI=\$24,557 - SSI = \$23,680



VR/EN TTW Payment Split

<u>TTW Phase</u>	<u>VR</u>	<u>MH Agency</u>
Phase 1	50%	50%
Phase 2	35%	65%
Outcome	20%	80%



It's EASY!

Once your program becomes a vendor with VR, and is in a TTW contract, all you need to do is:

1. Report current clients enrolled in VR services to TTW Coordinator monthly.
2. Track quarterly contact with current and graduated IPS clients eligible for TTW payments.
 - This contact can be from anyone at agency (i.e.; MHS, skills trainer or doctor progress notes.)
 - Can also be a letter automatically sent quarterly.



“Help, I got something in the mail!”

Annual timely progress review (TPR) requests are sent to the beneficiary from the TTW Administrator to see if they have met certain general work earnings, training and education level benchmarks:

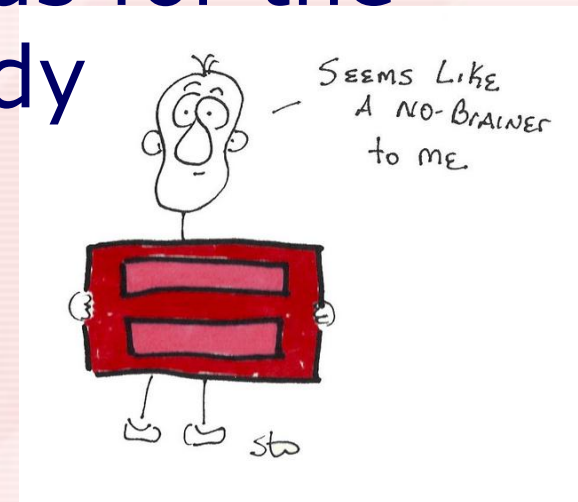
- The TPR is unrelated to medical reviews.
- Employment Specialists may need to assist individuals in completing these forms.
- If the review is not completed by the client, VR will be sent the review and will complete with minimally available information.

“Wait, what if I didn’t make timely progress?!”

1. Social Security will send the beneficiary a letter letting them know that they did not meet timely progress with the TTW program.
2. They will be put back on their regular schedule for SSA medical reviews.
3. A qualified benefits planner can help the client determine when their next medical review should occur.

Why Should We Do This?

- Why not get additional funds for the services that you are already performing?
- Some programs have received sizeable amounts!
- The time it takes to report monthly and track quarterly contact is minimal.



Contact Information

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www.oregon.gov/DHS/vr

Ticket To Work Hotline

1-866-968-7842 Toll Free

1-866-833-2967 TDD

TTW Website

www.choosework.net

