



Ticket to Work Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is The Ticket to Work program?

The Ticket to Work program is a program from the Social Security Administration for people who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of a disability or blindness. The program offers you greater choice in getting the services you need to go to work or to earn more money. The goal of the program is to help you earn enough money so you will not need Social Security cash benefits.

2. How can I get a ticket to participate in the Ticket to Work program?

The ticket information is mailed to those receiving disability cash benefits of SSI or SSDI by SSA who are between the ages of 18 and 64.

3. Why would I want to use The Ticket?

A Ticket to Work program provides you with options for employment services to help you earn enough money that you will not need Social Security cash benefits. The Ticket allows you to choose an Employment Network (EN) to receive individualized employment-related services. CareerSource Tampa Bay are approved Employment Networks offering dynamic employment and training services at no cost to you.

4. What is an Employment Network?

An Employment Network (EN) is an organization or government agency approved by Social Security to assist you in getting the services you need to obtain and maintain employment.

5. How do I use my Ticket?

To use your Ticket, contact CareerSource Tampa Bay and let us know that you are interested in enrolling in our Ticket to Work program. We will help you develop an Individualized Work Plan and assist you with the services you need to follow that plan.

6. I lost my Ticket. What should I do?

Don't worry. The Ticket sample that beneficiaries receive from the Social Security Administration is a promotional sample. CareerSource Tampa Bay can easily get you started in the Ticket to Work program if you meet the qualifications.

7. Do I have to use my Ticket?

No. Ticket to Work is a voluntary program. Individuals who want to go to work and get off of SSDI or SSI can use The Ticket to get the services they need. You can also hold on to your Ticket and use it later.

8. Why should I assign my Ticket to CareerSource Tampa Bay?

CareerSource Tampa Bay provides high quality employment services and has an established working relationship with Social Security. CareerSource Tampa Bay understands the impact of going to work. CareerSource Tampa Bay provides you with the tools necessary to prepare you for an effective job search process, can provide assessments career counseling and job placement assistance. Our goal is to ensure your success in transitioning to self-sufficiency.

9. If I use my Ticket to go to work, will Social Security conduct a medical review of my case, and I will lose my benefits?

No, if you participate in The Ticket program with an Employment Network and make “timely progress” in following your Individual Work Plan (IWP), Social Security will not conduct a review of your medical condition. If a medical Continuing Disability Review has been scheduled for you before you assigned your ticket, Social Security will continue with the medical CDR.

10. If I go to work, I will automatically lose my Medicare or Medicaid.

First, as long as you keep receiving a benefit check of any amount, you will keep your health insurance. If you earn enough that your Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) checks stop, Medicare can continue for up to 93 months. If you currently receive Medicaid, you should be eligible to continue to receive Medicaid even after you stop receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits due to work. To be eligible you need to meet certain requirements, which include earnings below a threshold amount set by the state. Even if your earnings exceed the state threshold, you may still be eligible and should talk to the state Medicaid office.

11. If I go to work, what will happen to my check and my benefits?

SSDI offers employment supports over a long period of time to allow you to test your ability to work. Generally, this includes a nine month trial work period in which you will continue to receive cash benefits while working and continued medical coverage up to 93 months after the end of the trial work period.

12. If I go to work, what happens to my SSI?

When you receive SSI and go to work, there are two things that are always true. First, you will always have more money. Secondly, your SSI check will be affected. If you choose to work despite your disability, you will continue to receive cash benefits until your earnings, added with any other income, exceed the SSI income limit for the state. Even if your SSI benefits stop, your Medicaid coverage usually will continue if your earnings are less than the state level. You may be able to deduct specific expenses from your monthly earnings before Social Security Administration decides if you are no longer eligible for benefits.

13. What monthly earnings amount determines if a month counts for the Trial Work Period?

The Trial Work Period monthly amount increased to \$850 per month in 2018.

14. How much can I make a month and not lose my benefits?

In 2018, the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount has increased to \$1,180 for non-blind individuals and \$1,970 for blind individuals receiving SSDI.

15. If I get a job how do I report my wages?

As of September 2017, individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and their representative payees may use *my Social Security* to report wages online. SSA plans to make this available to SSI recipients in a future release. In the meantime, SSI recipients can still use the automated toll-free SSI Telephone Wage Reporting system or the free SSI Mobile Wage Reporting smartphone app to report wages.

Learn even more by referring to the Red Book available online at www.SSA.gov.