

A Consumer Guide to the Ticket to Work in Maine



WORK CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

The ultimate goal of the Ticket to Work program is to assist people receiving Social Security disability benefits in reducing their reliance on disability benefits. The Ticket program also seeks to promote increased self-sufficiency and independence.

What is the Ticket to Work?

Ticket to Work is a program that offers SSA disability beneficiaries greater choice in obtaining the support and services you need to help you go to work and achieve your employment goals. If you receive SSDI or SSI benefits based on disability and would like to work to increase your current earnings and improve your quality of life, this program can help you get vocational rehabilitation, training, job referrals, and other ongoing support and services.

People with disabilities receiving benefits from SSA can use the Ticket issued to them by SSA to obtain services and supports to assist in preparing for work entering and maintaining employment. SSA pays approved providers of services, referred to as “employment networks”, when the Ticket holders they are serving go to work and achieve designated levels of work and earnings.

Frequently Asked Questions



If I get a Ticket, do I have to use it?

No, the Ticket to Work Program is voluntary. If you would like to work or increase your current earnings, this program can help you get rehabilitation, training, job referrals, and other ongoing supports and services to do so.

If I go to work, will my benefits be affected?

Working and receiving any income may affect your benefits, but there are several programs available as a bridge between disability benefits and financial independence. MaineCare coverage can be continued for employed adults with disabilities. Other work incentives exist too, such as help with extra work expenses related to your disability, income adjustments related to your housing costs, etc. You are encouraged to contact a benefits specialist (a Community Work Incentives Coordinator, or CWIC) who can help you learn how working may affect your benefits. Your area CWIC can be reached at 1-888-208-8700. (Visit their web site at http://www.mmc.org/mmc_body.cfm?id=4881)

How does participating in the Ticket program affect medical reviews of my disability?

SSA ordinarily conducts reviews of your medical condition from time to time to see if you are still disabled and continue to be eligible for benefits. If you are

participating in the Ticket program and making timely progress pursuing your employment goals, SSA will not conduct a review of your medical condition.

Do I have to work with a particular employment network or state vocational rehabilitation agency?

No, you and an employment network or state VR agency must agree that you can work together. You can take your Ticket and shop around for another network at any time.

How can I get more information about the Ticket program?

If you are interested in using the Ticket program to go to work or get vocational services, or simply wish to get more information about the program, you should call the Ticket to Work Helpline at 1-866-968-7842 toll-free (TTY 1-866-833-2967). The Ticket Helpline staff can answer your questions about the Ticket program and resources in your area. Visit their website at <http://ssa.gov/work/aboutticket.html>

SSA has contracted with MAXIMUS, Inc. to serve as the manager for the Ticket program. You can get information about the Ticket to Work Program by visiting their web page at www.yourtickettowork.com, or by calling MAXIMUS at their toll-free numbers, 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 TTY.

What if I need more information about my rights, or have a complaint about an employment network, service provider, or employer?

Depending on the nature of your complaint, the Disability Rights Center (1-800-452-1948) can provide you with advice, advocacy, or legal representation. (Visit www.drcme.org for more information.)

www.employmentforme.org
is a great starting point to explore work options and get your
questions answered

Ticket to Work Resources



For more information, contact the following agencies by telephone or by visiting their websites. If you do not have the Internet at home, you can access it at your local Career Center or public library.

www.employmentforme.org

Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

1-800-698-4440 Voice

1-888-755-0023 TTY

www.maine.gov/rehab/ticket/index.htm

Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213 Voice

1-800-325-0778 TTY

www.Socialsecurity.gov/work/Ticket/ticket.html

MAXIMUS

1-866-968-7842 Voice

1-866-833-2967 TTY

www.yourtickettowork.com

Disability Rights Center

1-800-452-1948 V/TTY

www.drcme.org

The Disability Rights Center provides information, advocacy, and representation to individuals with disabilities. Call, write, or stop in if you:

- Have questions or concerns about Ticket to Work or other disability-related work issues;
- Want to know more about the rights of individuals with disabilities, or believe that your rights have been violated;
- Need help in resolving a complaint or dispute with an Employment Network or other service provider;
- Have questions or concerns about special education, including transition planning; or

Have any other disability-related questions or concerns.

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