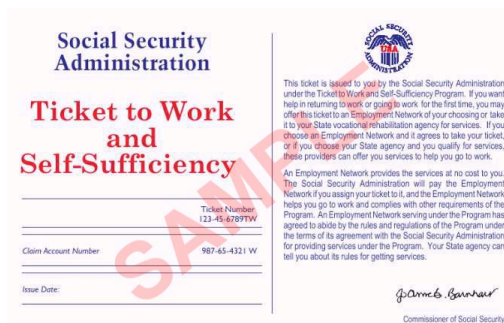


A Consumer's Quick Guide to Ticket to Work In Rhode Island



This publication is provided by the RI Disability Law Center with a grant from the Social Security Administration. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the Social Security Administration.

Questions and Answers

Why am I getting this Ticket to Work? (Ticket)

The Social Security Administration sends the Ticket to eligible SSI and/or SSDI beneficiaries who are between the ages of 18 and 65. It is an opportunity for you to receive services and support so that you can go to work if you want to.

Why would I want the Ticket?

The Ticket provides you with options in employment services. Until this time, you were limited to the services provided by the Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS). The Ticket allows you to choose a provider, called an Employment Network (EN), that best meets your needs and to receive employment-related services at no cost to you. In addition, Social Security will not schedule you for any medical continuing disability reviews (CDRs) while you are using the Ticket.

Do I have to use my Ticket?

No. Participation and use of the Ticket is *strictly voluntary*. Your Social Security benefits will not be affected if you choose not to use your Ticket.

How do I use my Ticket?

Take the Ticket to ORS or an EN, who will help you develop a plan to go to work, and then provide you with the services you need to follow that plan. Not all ENs serve all consumers, so you will need to contact them to find out which ones can assist you.

What if I lose my Ticket?

Contact MAXIMUS, the agency that administers the Ticket program, at their toll-free number, 1-866-968-7842, for more information or for replacement.

What is an EN?

An EN is a private organization approved by Social Security to assist you in getting the services you need in order to obtain and maintain employment. For purposes of the Ticket program, ORS is considered an EN.

Do I have to go to work in order to keep my Ticket?

You do not have to go to work to keep your Ticket. However, to keep your medical CDR protection, you must make timely progress toward reaching the employment goals that your EN will help you set.

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

Working and receiving any income may affect your benefits (i.e. SSI, SSDI, food stamps, medical assistance, housing). Programs such as Medicaid, Social Security work incentives, and income disallowances for housing assistance can help reduce or eliminate potential benefits problems. You are strongly encouraged to contact a *Community Work Incentives Coordinator* ("CWIC") who can help you learn how working may affect your benefits.

Where can I find a CWIC?

ORS can provide you with a CWIC or refer you to one in your area.

How can I find out more about the ENs in my area?

Contact MAXIMUS or OSCIL.

What if I have a complaint about an EN, service provider, or employer?

Depending on your complaint, the RI Disability Law Center can provide you with advice, advocacy, or legal representation.

What is the Ticket to Work?

The Ticket to Work (Ticket) is a new program of the Social Security Administration. It is a voluntary program for people who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because of a disability. The goal of the program is to help SSI and SSDI beneficiaries obtain and maintain employment and earn enough money that they will not need Social Security cash benefits.

The Ticket gives beneficiaries greater choice in receiving the services they need in order to go to work or earn more money because they can now receive those services from either ORS or an Employment Network (EN). An EN is a private organization or government agency that has agreed to work with Social Security to provide employment-related services to beneficiaries. Eligible beneficiaries in Rhode Island will begin receiving their Tickets in November 2003 and throughout the next several months following.

For more information on the Ticket to Work, contact the following agencies.

RI Disability Law Center, Inc.

401-831-3150 Voice

401-831-5335 TTY

www.ridlc.org

Office of Rehabilitation Services

401-421-7005 Voice

401-421-7016 TTY

www.ors.state.ri.us

MAXIMUS

1-866-968-7842 Voice

1-866-833-2967 TTY

www.yourtickettowork.com

Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213 Voice

1-800-325-0778 TTY

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

Revised May, 2008