

## Ticket to Work Program

This is an existing program through Social Security Administration (SSA), but there are new changes that went into affect on July 21, 2008. You might have more traffic in the Career Centers seeking services. This gives you an overview of the background of Ticket to Work, new regulations in affect, and Employment Network contact information in our service area. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

### **Background**

Ticket to Work is an employment program created in 1999 by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act and is administered by the SSA. The initial program regulations were published in December 2001. Ticket to work is a voluntary program that offers beneficiaries age 18 through 64, and who are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on their disability, expanded opportunities to obtain the services and supports that they need to work and to achieve their employment goals.

SSA does this by paying providers of services, referred to as "Employment Networks" or "ENs", for assisting beneficiaries in reaching designated Milestones and Outcomes associated with achieving self-supporting employment. The ultimate goal of this program is to reduce reliance on Social Security disability benefits and to promote increased self-sufficiency for beneficiaries with disabilities through work. The program is a free and voluntary service, so the beneficiary, or Ticket Holder, can use their Ticket if they choose, but there is no penalty for not using it.

### **New Ticket to Work Regulations Associated with Beneficiary Participation**

- Eligibility for the Ticket has been expanded to all adult beneficiaries ages 18 through 64. Prior to this, certain beneficiaries were not eligible to receive a Ticket prior to completion of their first Continuing Disability Review (CDR) because medical improvement was expected to occur.
- Phase 1 Milestones based on part-time work and increases in self-sufficiency permit beneficiaries to receive a mix of benefit payments from SSA and on-the-job earnings, recognizing that the road to self-sufficiency is often an incremental, multi-step process.
- Phase 2 Milestones based on gross earnings of Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) encourage the use of SSA and other work incentives.

### **What to do if a Ticket Holders comes into the Career Center**

- At this time, we are not an Employment Network for the Ticket to Work Program; however, that does not mean we cannot serve the "Ticket Holder" in our usual manner in case they are not ready to assign their Ticket.
- When a Ticket Holder receives their Ticket from SSA, they should receive information about the Employment Networks available in their area. Should a Ticket Holder come into the Career Center and not know this information, there are two (2) Employment Networks in LWIA 12s service area. The two ENs are The Star Center located in Jackson and the TN Division of Rehabilitation Services. The following is contact information for each county:

<p>The Star Center</p> <p><b>Dyer, Obion, Lake, Gibson, Crockett, Lauderdale, and Tipton Counties</b></p> <p>1119 Old Humboldt Road</p> <p>Jackson, TN 38305</p> <p>Contact: Bill Whitten</p> <p>Phone: (731) 668-3888</p> <p>Toll Free: (800) 464-5619</p> <p>TDD: (731)-668-9664</p> <p>Website: starcenter.tn.org</p>	<p>TN Division of Rehabilitation Services</p> <p><b>Dyer County</b></p> <p>1365 Morgan Road</p> <p>Dyersburg, TN 38024</p> <p>Contact: Ronda Baker, Supervisor</p> <p>Phone: (731) 286-8315 ext. 114</p>
<p>TN Division of Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Obion County</b></p> <p>1419 North Morgan Extension</p> <p>Union City, TN 38261</p> <p>Contact: Amanda Cleek</p> <p>Phone: (731) 884-2600 ext. 106</p>	<p>TN Division of Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Lake County</b></p> <p>Contact: Chris McClimans</p> <p>Phone: (731) 286-8315 ext. 106</p>
<p>TN Division of Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Gibson County</b></p> <p>Contact: Amanda Cleek</p> <p>Phone: (731) 884-2600 ext 106</p>	<p>TN Division of Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Crockett County</b></p> <p>Contact: Leeanne Tucsnak</p> <p>Phone: (731) 265-7030</p>
<p>TN Division of Rehabilitation</p> <p><b>Lauderdale &amp; Tipton County</b></p> <p>Contact: Jim Yates</p> <p>Phone: (901) 475-2505</p>	

- If a Ticket Holder is looking to go to work or into training and they are unsure what that will do to the benefits they are currently receiving, you can refer them the Community Work Incentives Coordinators in your area located at the Memphis or Jackson Centers for Independent Living. Their contact information is:

Hope Johnson  
Memphis Center for Independent Living  
1633 Madison Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38104  
Mobile Phone: (901) 849-4866  
Office Phone: (901) 726-6404  
Fax: (901) 726-6521  
Email: [hope\\_j@tndisability.gov](mailto:hope_j@tndisability.gov)

Larry Goff  
Jackson Center for Independent Living  
1981 Hollywood Drive  
Jackson, TN 38305  
Mobile Phone: (731) 394-4633  
Office Phone: (731) 668-2211  
Fax: (731) 668-0406  
Email: [larry\\_g@tndisability.gov](mailto:larry_g@tndisability.gov)