

## **Ticket to Work Information**

### **What is the Ticket to Work program?**

The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is a program for individuals between the ages of 18-64 who are receiving Social Security disability benefits: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The Ticket to Work program makes it possible for you to receive vocational services and test your ability to work without immediately losing your Social Security benefits including your medical insurance: Medicaid & Medicare.

### **What is the goal of the Ticket to Work program?**

VR New Hampshire is an employment program for individuals who experience a disability. We focus on service delivery that assists individuals in preparing for, obtaining, retaining, and advancing in employment.

The Ticket to Work program allows you to receive vocational services and supports at no cost to you to help you obtain employment and work towards greater independence and increased self-sufficiency.

### **Is there a cost to participate in the Ticket to Work program?**

The Ticket to Work program is free and voluntary for individuals receiving Social Security disability benefits ages 18-64. The Social Security Administration pays VR New Hampshire for the services provided to you once you achieve certain milestones once you start working.

### **What if I am working with VR New Hampshire but I am under the age 18?**

If you are currently receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), once you turn 18 you will go through a redetermination process with Social Security Administration. Once you complete the redetermination process then you will be eligible for the Ticket to Work program.

## **Will I lose my Social Security benefits if I participate in the Ticket to Work program?**

There are many safety nets, also known as work incentives, for you to test your ability to return to work without immediately losing your Social Security benefits, including your medical insurance: Medicaid & Medicare.

When you are participating in our program you will have the opportunity to receive individualized benefits counseling to better understand how earnings from work impacts your benefits.

## **What are the benefits of participating in the Ticket to Work program?**

### Vocational Services and Supports

You will receive vocational services and supports at no cost to you to help you obtain employment and work towards greater independence and increased self-sufficiency for the duration of time your ticket is assigned to VR New Hampshire, in many cases your ticket will stay assigned to us even after your case is closed.

### Waiver of Continuing Disability Review (CDR)

Social Security Administration in most cases will not perform a medical 'Continuing Disability Review' while you are participating in the program as long as you are making timely progress towards your vocational goals once your ticket is assigned to VR New Hampshire.

If you receive a notice from Social Security Administration for Continuing Disability Review while you are working with VR New Hampshire, contact your counselor for guidance.

### Benefits Counseling

Benefits counseling is a free service which a certified Benefits Counselor will explain how earnings from work will affect your Social Security benefits as well as federal and state benefits. This includes:

- SSDI and SSI
- Housing assistance
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/food stamps
- Healthcare benefits, including Medicare and Medicaid

Benefits counseling also reviews all of the Social Security Work Incentives which can enable you to ease the transition to work without immediately losing your benefits. They will also explain the importance of reporting your wages to Social Security to help avoid benefit overpayments.

## **How do I assign my 'ticket' to VR New Hampshire?**

Your ticket will automatically be assigned to VR New Hampshire when you and your counselor complete your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

If you start to receive Social Security disability benefits after you complete your IPE, your ticket will be assigned for the date you became eligible for Social Security disability benefits.

## **Can I use my 'ticket' somewhere else?**

VR New Hampshire is just one option you have in deciding what type of service provider you should work with. Social Security beneficiaries may choose to assign their ticket to a Vocational Rehabilitation office or an Employment Network (EN) to obtain employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support services necessary to achieve a work goal.

If you need help in choosing a provider, contact the Ticket to Work hotline at 1-866-968-7842 / 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).

## **Where can I get more information on the Ticket to Work program?**

Social Security's Ticket to Work website is a great resource. You can also contact your VR counselor directly or Kristin Venator, Ticket to Work Program Specialist for more information.

### **Contact Information:**

#### **NH Vocational Rehabilitation Offices**

- Berlin Regional Office  
Phone: 603-752-2271 (V/TTY)
- Concord Regional Office  
Phone: 603-271-2327 (V/TTY)
- Keene Regional Office  
Phone: 603-357-0266 (V/TTY)
- Manchester Regional Office  
Phone: 603-669-8733 (V/TTY)
- Nashua Regional Office  
Phone: 603-889-6844 (V/TTY)
- Portsmouth Regional Office  
Phone: 603-436-8884 (V/TTY)
- Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired  
Phone: 271-3537  
V/TTY: 1-603-271-3471

**NH Vocational Rehabilitation Ticket to Work Specialist**

Kristin Venator

603-271-1482

[stacy.k.venator@doe.nh.gov](mailto:stacy.k.venator@doe.nh.gov)

**Social Security Ticket to Work Helpline**

866-968-7842

866-833-2967 (TTY)

email: [support@choosework.ssa.gov](mailto:support@choosework.ssa.gov)

website: [www.choosework.ssa.gov](http://www.choosework.ssa.gov)