Ticket to Work Program
Pathways to Success

Presented by Account Specialists: Melissa Stipa & David Jones
Objectives

- Introduce the Ticket to Work program
- Learn about the benefits of the Ticket to Work Program for your agency
- Learn about the benefits of the Ticket to Work Program for Veterans
- Identify the qualifications to become an Employment Network (EN)
- Understand work incentives and how Social Security benefits change as a result of employment
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives and Improvement Act

Signed into law by President Clinton in 1999

Purposes:

✓ Encourage states to enable beneficiaries to purchase necessary Medicaid coverage
✓ Provide continuing Medicare coverage while employed
✓ Establish the Ticket to Work program to provide employment preparation and placement services
The Who’s Who

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Operations Support Manager (OSM)

Beneficiary Access and Support Services (BASS)
Social Security Administration (Social Security)

- Oversees Ticket to Work program
- Writes and updates regulations
- Final authority on all decisions
- Determines which beneficiaries receive Tickets
- www.ssa.gov/work

Used with permission of SSA
Operations Support Manager (OSM)

• Payments
• Administrative Functions
• Address technical assistance needs
• Supply strategies
  • Enhance internal procedures
  • Increase Ticket assignments
  • Increase Payments
• www.yourtickettowork.com
Beneficiary Access and Support Services (BASS)

- Answer calls from beneficiaries
- Explain the basics of the Ticket program and distributes customized service provider lists to interested beneficiaries
- [www.chooseworkttw.net](http://www.chooseworkttw.net)
Service Provider Roles

- Employment Networks (ENs) can be for-profit and non-profit organizations, including:
  - Government agencies (state or local)
  - Sole proprietorships
- Increase the number of beneficiaries entering workforce
- Assist the beneficiary in becoming self-sufficient
Why is Ticket to Work a Good Fit for Veterans?

Participation

• Age 18 through 64
• Currently receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
• Voluntary
• Protection from Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs)
• Opportunity to earn more than disability payments alone, helping beneficiaries achieve self sufficiency
• Assists in reintegrating Veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force

*As of 2010- Veterans and their families consist of 35% of the beneficiary population*

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v71n2/v71n2p1.pdf
Progress Check

• How many of you serve Veterans that are on Social Security benefits who are between the ages of 18-64?
• How many of those Veterans are currently receiving employment services?
Outcome-based Payment System and Braided Funding

• The Ticket program is an outcome based program (Not fee for services)

• Payments to service providers are discretionary funds and can be used as the organization chooses

• Braided Funding
  • Supplement Ticket funding to support other programs
  • ENs incorporate Ticket into existing programs
# 2015 Payments at a Glance

## Outcome Payment Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Type</th>
<th>Beneficiary Earnings Required After Ticket Assignment</th>
<th>SSI Ticket-Holder (Title XVI)</th>
<th>SSDI Ticket-Holder (Title II)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Earnings sufficient for “zero” cash benefits status</td>
<td>Up to 60 Payments of $443/Mo</td>
<td>Up to 36 Payments of $769/Mo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Outcome Payments Available</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 26,580</td>
<td>$ 27,684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Milestone Outcome Payment Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Type</th>
<th>Beneficiary Earnings</th>
<th>SSI Payment Amount (Title XVI)</th>
<th>SSDI Payment Amount (Title II)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1 Milestones**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 1</td>
<td>$780/mo. x 1 mo.</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 2</td>
<td>$780/mo. x 3 mos. w/in 6 mos.</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 3</td>
<td>$780/mo. x 6 mos. w/in 12 mos.</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 4</td>
<td>$780/mo. x 9 mos. w/in 18 mos.</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
<td>$1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Potential Phase 1 Milestones</td>
<td>$5,508</td>
<td>$5,508</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2 Milestones</td>
<td>Gross Earnings &gt; SGA ($1,090/$1,820)***</td>
<td>$238/mo. for up to 18 mos. = $4,284</td>
<td>$413/mo. for up to 11 mos. = $4,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Potential Phase 1+2 Milestones</td>
<td>$9,792</td>
<td>$10,051</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Earnings &gt; SGA ($1,090/$1,820)*** And federal cash benefit = $0</td>
<td>$238/mo. for up to 60 mos. = $14,280</td>
<td>$413/mo. for up to 36 mos. = $14,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Potential Milestone and Outcome Payments</td>
<td>$ 24,072</td>
<td>$ 24,919</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The payment rate in effect at the time the Milestone or Outcome is attained is the rate that will be paid for that particular month, regardless of when the payment request is submitted.

** Please contact the Payments Help Desk (at ENPaymentsHelpDesk@yourtickettowork.com) for explanations to exceptions.

*** The 2015 monthly SGA amounts are $1,090 for non-blind and $1,820 for blind individuals.
Progress Check

Think about the individuals you currently serve and how many of those you have assisted with obtaining employment.

• Are any of those individuals earning $780 or $1090?

Think back to the last two years and estimate how many individuals obtained employment earnings of $770 TWL (2014) and $750 TWL (2013).

*One beneficiary in 2013 or 2014 earning $770 or more for at least 9 months = potential payment of $5,000 plus. If the beneficiary continued working for the next year to 1.5 years, your agency could have received an additional $4,000 plus.*
Ticket to Work Program
Pathways to Success

Presented by: Amy Wallish, CWIC
Full Circle Employment Solutions LLC

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans | May 27 – 29, 2015
Key to Success

Knowledge + Education = Financial Self Sufficiency & Independence
Benefits Counseling

• Educational information to gain knowledge of benefits/work incentives to make informed decisions

• How employment will affect benefits

• Provide ongoing support and assistance
  • Reporting wages, Implementing Work Incentives such as: Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE), Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS), etc.
Who provides benefits counseling services?

- **Certified Benefits Counselors**-
  independent and agency CWICs provide counseling through State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (DORS, RSA, DARS)

- **Employment Networks (ENs)**-
  through Social Security Administration’s Ticket to Work program

- **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance**-
  Social Security grant funded benefits planning available in every state free of cost to beneficiaries
How VA Benefits Affect SSA Title II Benefits (SSDI, DAC)

• VA Disability Compensation and Disability Pension benefits do NOT affect Title II benefits.

• Some other military disability retirement benefits may reduce Title II just as Workers’ Compensation payments do.
How VA Benefits Affect SSI

- VA Disability Compensation – counts as unearned income ($20 general income exclusion applies)
- VA Disability Pension – counts as unearned income ($20 general income exclusion DOES NOT apply)

Exclusions (NOT Counted as Income for SSI):

- The portion of VA Disability Compensation or Disability Pension that is:
  ◦ An Aid and Attendance Allowance,
  ◦ A Housebound Allowance, or
  ◦ For unusual medical expenses
- Certain special Disability Compensation benefits paid on the basis of a Medal of Honor or special act of Congress
- Payments made as part of a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program
- Most Compensated Work Therapy payments (except those received in supported employment)
- VA clothing allowances
How Title II and SSI Affect VA Benefits

• VA Disability Compensation is **NOT** affected by other income. Service members with disabilities should apply for Title II and/or SSI if they may be eligible.

• **VA Disability Pensions** are reduced dollar for dollar by Title II benefits.

• **VA Disability Pensions** are **NOT** affected by SSI. SSI is NOT counted as income.
Overview of Work Incentives

- Work incentives are individualized based on a beneficiary’s situation
  - Benefits Summary and Analysis
  - Work Incentive Plan

- SSDI (Title II) - see separate handout

- SSI - see separate handout
TAKE AWAY

- Service members can receive both VA benefits and SSA benefits
- The Ticket to Work Program provides additional support for returning to work
- Work incentives are safety nets for returning to work - under utilized
- In almost every case, monthly financial outlook will be better with work!
Partnership is KEY!

**Why:**
- Capacity building- quicker rate
- Provide specialty supports through partners
- Seamless transition from VR to EN
- Increase revenue

**Who:**
- Other ENs
- Non-EN service providers
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies
Snapshot on Partnership Plus

• Handoff from VR to EN upon case closure

• Seamless transition
  • For beneficiary from VR liaison/counselor to EN provider for long term support

• Increased Revenue
  • Unrestricted
  • Track months at SGA and report to VR for cost reimbursement
  • VR vendor payments are NOT considered double dipping
Participation through Partnership

Full Circle EN Models:

- **Administrative**- EN on record; provide administrative support

- **Work Incentives**- Provide administrative support to an agency and benefits counseling/work incentives management to the agency’s beneficiaries

- **Mentor**- Provide administrative support to an agency and technical assistance with all aspects of becoming an independent EN within a specific timeframe
Participation through Partnership

Benefits:

• Immediately increase number served

• Revenue generated within 2 months for any ticket holder earning above SGA at the time of referral

• Work with an experienced EN with a proven track record
Partnership Example

• Formal partnership developed in March 2012

• First payment to Partner EN August 2012 for $515.20

• Partner’s revenue
  • 2012- $6,210
  • 2013- $13,986.40
  • 2014- $21,048.40
Making it Work for YOU!

- Flexibility of this program allows you to be creative to meet your needs
- Ability for quick growth and generating revenue
- VR vendors should be independent ENs or in an EN partnership or else money may be left on the table
- Ability to increase services offered
- EN payments are unrestricted
- Partnership is KEY!
How to Become an EN
Social Security Request for Quotation (RFQ)
Requirements for ENs

- The full application is available at [http://ssa.gov/work/enrfp.html](http://ssa.gov/work/enrfp.html)
- Offeror must submit with their proposal at least one of the following:
  - Proof of **grant** funding (HVRP grant) to provide employment related services
  - Evidence of **contract or vendor** agreement with state VR contract or federal agency
  - Evidence of **certification or accreditation** from national rehabilitation and employment services accrediting bodies (example: CARF)
  - A copy of the **license or certification** as required by State law to provide employment services

*All qualifications must be current*
Request for Quotation (cont.)

- Offeror must have 2 years of experience providing employment services for people with disabilities
- Offeror must provide at a minimum these three core services:
  - Career counseling
  - Job placement
  - Ongoing employment supports
Contact Information

OSM
Choose Work for Service Providers
www.yourtickettowork.com
1-866-949-3687

Social Security-ORDES
Work Site
www.socialsecurity.gov/work

BASS
Choose Work
www.chooseworkttw.net
1-866-968-7842
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Questions?