

Ticket to Work



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Group

Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities

What is Ticket to Work?

- It is a program established by Social Security Administration (SSA)
- **Eligibility:** Ages 18-64, currently receiving SSI/SSDI benefits
- **Goal:** Support career development for individuals wanting to work & become self-sufficient
- **Participation:** Free & voluntary program
- You can use the Ticket if you choose, but there is no penalty for not using it.



Goals of the Ticket to Work Program



- Start working and earn at least Trial Work Level (TWL) \$1,110/month (2024) during the first 9 months after Ticket assignment with goal of becoming self sufficient.
- After 9 months, earn Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) \$1,550/month (2024) for 11-18 months.
- Earn Substantial Gainful Activity, ongoing and be completely off cash benefits.
- Maintaining medical benefits.



- Access to employment/career services.
- Protection from Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR), if making Timely Progress.
- Assistance with wage reporting to Social Security.
- Work incentive counseling referral/planning.
- Expedited Reinstatement of benefits.
- Your own personal employment team regardless if receiving services from another employment provider.
- You can make more money

- Trial Work Period (TWP)
- Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- Continuation of Medicare Coverage
- Potential Continued Coverage with AHCCCS (Medicaid) through the AHCCCS Freedom to Work Program

Trial Work Period (TWP)

- Allows SSDI beneficiaries time to test their ability to work
- 9 Months, not necessarily consecutive
- “Rolling” 60-month period
- Full SSDI benefit continues regardless of earnings
- Months with \$1,110 in gross earnings (2024) or more than 80 hours of self employment are considered TWP months.

SSDI Only

Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)

- The EPE begins the month after the Trial Work Period (TWP) ends, even if you are not working that month.
- The first 36 months of the EPE is the re-entitlement period.
- During the re-entitlement period:
 - if work or monthly earnings are **below** Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) gross earnings \$1550 (2024), **benefits are payable**;
 - if work or monthly earnings are **above** Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) gross earnings \$1550 (2024), **benefits are suspended**.

SSDI Only

Continuation of Medicare Coverage

- Although cash benefits may cease due to work, continued health insurance is possible.
- Most beneficiaries who work will continue to receive at least 93 consecutive months: of Part A; Part B (if enrolled); and Part D (if enrolled). There is no premium for Part A.
- The 93 months start the month after the last month of the TWP.
- To qualify, beneficiary must already have Medicare and be working at SGA level but not medically improved.

SSDI Only

AHCCCS Freedom to Work

AHCCCS Freedom to Work is affordable health insurance for individuals living with disabilities who are working. This is a program provided by the State of Arizona and is managed by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

SSDI Only

SSI Only Work Incentives

- Earned Income & General Income Exclusion
- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Special SSI Payments for Persons Who Work - Section 1619(a)
- Medicaid While Working - Section 1619(b)



Earned Income Exclusion

- SSA does not count the first \$65 of the earnings received in a month, plus one-half of the remaining earnings. This means we count less than one-half of earnings when we figure the SSI payment amount.
- SSA will apply this exclusion in addition to the \$20 general income exclusion.
- SSA will apply the \$20 general income exclusion first to any unearned income received.

SSI Only

Medicaid While Working- Section 1619(b)

How does it work?

- Your eligibility for SSI will continue for as long as you meet the basic eligibility requirements and the income and resource tests.
- SSA will continue to figure your SSI payment amount in the same way as before.
- Arizona provides Medicaid to persons on SSI, so you will continue to be eligible for Medicaid.

Do you need to apply?

- You do not need to file a special application; just keep SSA up to date on your work activity.

SSI Only

Additional Work Incentives

- Subsidies and Special Conditions
- Unsuccessful Work Attempt (UWA)
- Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
 - Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)
 - Expedited Reinstatement (EXR)



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Impairment-Related Work Incentives (IRWE)

SSA will deduct the cost of certain impairment-related items and services that are needed to work from gross earnings when we decide if your work is SGA.

Example:

Tom is earning \$1600.00 per month in gross wages. His monthly co-pay for his medications is \$100.00 out of pocket.

$\$1600 - \$100 = \$1500$ - This would be the estimated countable income when determining SGA.



Plan to Achieve Self- Support (PASS)



What is a PASS?

- A PASS is an SSI provision to help individuals with disabilities return to work.
- If you receive SSI or could qualify for SSI after setting aside income or resources so that you may pursue a work goal, you could benefit from a PASS.


Valuable Resource

Choose Work Website


<https://choosework.ssa.gov/>




Social Security Social Security's Work Site For Beneficiaries For Service Providers User Settings

 **TICKET to Work**
Access to Employment Support Services for Social Security Disability Beneficiaries Who Want to Work

Enter Search Term Here



Home About Success Stories Find Help Find a Job Webinar & Tutorials Library Blog  Contact

If you received a letter inviting you to participate in Social Security's Ticket to Work Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey in the mail, we encourage you to use the link or QR code provided in the letter to access the survey and to take the time (only about 15 minutes!) to share your feedback.

For more information about the survey, visit the blog post for the [Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey](#).

Due to current telework policy, all correspondence to Social Security's Office of Employment Support (OES) must be sent electronically rather than by postal mail. Emails must be sent to support@choosework.ssa.gov, and must not include personally identifiable information. You may also contact the Ticket to Work Help Line at [1-866-968-7842](tel:1-866-968-7842) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

Contact the Help Line at [1-866-968-7842](tel:1-866-968-7842). For callers who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities, call our TTY at 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) M-F 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET, or [Send Us an Email Message](#).

<h2>SPOTLIGHT</h2> <p>on EVENTS & FEATURES</p>	<h3>WISE Webinar</h3> <p>Wednesday, March 27 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. ET.</p> <p>Register now</p>	<h3>my Social Security</h3> <p>Free personalized tools, secure benefits information</p> <p>Sign Up Today</p>	<h3>Hot Jobs</h3> <p>The fastest growing careers that aren't office jobs</p> <p>Learn More</p>
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QUESTIONS



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