

- employment plan was signed prior to implementation be covered under the Ticket to Work program payment provisions?
- 411.720 If an alternate participant chooses not to become an EN, can it continue to function under the programs for payments for VR services?
- 411.725 If an alternate participant becomes an EN and it has signed employment plans, both as an alternate participant and an EN, how will SSA pay for services provided under each employment plan?
- 411.730 What happens if an alternate participant signed an employment plan with a beneficiary before Ticket to Work program implementation in the State and the required period of substantial gainful activity is not completed by January 1, 2004?

AUTHORITY: Sec. 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-19); sec. 101(b)-(e), Pub. L. 106-170, 113 Stat. 1860, 1873 (42 U.S.C. 1320b-19 note).

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Subpart A—Introduction

§411.100 Scope.

The regulations in this part 411 relate to the provisions of section 1148 of the Social Security Act which establishes the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (hereafter referred to as the "Ticket to Work program"). The regulations in this part are divided into ten subparts:

- (a) Subpart A explains the scope of this part, explains the purpose and manner of implementation of the Ticket to Work program, and provides definitions of terms used in this part.
- (b) Subpart B contains provisions relating to the ticket under the Ticket to Work program.
- (c) Subpart C contains provisions relating to the suspension of continuing disability reviews for disabled beneficiaries who are considered to be using a ticket.
- (d) Subpart D contains provisions relating to the use of one or more program managers to assist us in the administration of the Ticket to Work program.
- (e) Subpart E contains provisions relating to employment networks in the Ticket to Work program.
- (f) Subpart F contains provisions relating to State vocational rehabilita-

tion agencies' participation in the Ticket to Work program.

(g) Subpart G contains provisions relating to individual work plans in the Ticket to Work program.

(h) Subpart H contains provisions establishing employment network payment systems.

(i) Subpart I contains provisions that establish a procedure for resolving disputes under the Ticket to Work program.

(j) Subpart J contains provisions explaining how the implementation of the Ticket to Work program affects alternate participants under the programs for payments for vocational rehabilitation services under subpart V of part 404 and subpart V of part 416 of this chapter.

§411.105 What is the purpose of the Ticket to Work program?

The purpose of the Ticket to Work program is to expand the universe of service providers available to individuals who are entitled to Social Security benefits based on disability or eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits based on disability or blindness in obtaining the services necessary to find, enter and retain employment. Expanded employment opportunities for these individuals also will increase the likelihood that these individuals will reduce their dependency on Social Security and SSI cash benefits.

§411.110 How is the Ticket to Work program implemented?

We are implementing the Ticket to Work program in graduated phases at phase-in sites around the country. We are implementing the program at sites on a wide enough scale to allow for a thorough evaluation and ensure full implementation of the program on a timely basis.

§411.115 Definitions of terms used in this part.

- As used in this part:
- (a) "The Act" means the Social Security Act, as amended.
 - (b) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Social Security.
 - (c) "Cost reimbursement payment system" means the provisions for payment

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for vocational rehabilitation services under subpart V of part 404 and subpart V of part 416 of this chapter.

(d) “*Disabled beneficiary*” means a title II disability beneficiary or a title XVI disability beneficiary.

(e) “*Employment network*” or “*EN*” means a qualified public or private entity that has entered into an agreement with us to serve under the Ticket to Work program and that assumes responsibility for the coordination and delivery of employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, or other support services to beneficiaries assigning tickets to it. The rules on employment networks are described in subpart E of this part (§§411.300-411.330). A State vocational rehabilitation agency may choose, on a case-by-case basis, to function as an employment network with respect to a beneficiary under the Ticket to Work program. The rules on State vocational rehabilitation agencies’ participation in the Ticket to Work program are described in subpart F of this part (§§411.350-411.435).

(f) “*Employment plan*” means an individual work plan described in paragraph (i) of this section, or an individualized plan for employment described in paragraph (j) of this section. When used in subpart J of this part, “employment plan” also means a “similar document” referred to in §§404.2114(a)(2) and 416.2214(a)(2) of this chapter under which an alternate participant under the programs for payments for vocational rehabilitation services (described in subpart V of part 404 and subpart V of part 416 of this chapter) provides services to a disabled beneficiary under those programs.

(g) “*Federal SSI cash benefits*” means a “Supplemental Security Income benefit under title XVI” based on blindness or disability as described in paragraphs (n) and (r) of this section.

(h) “*I*”, “*my*”, “*you*”, or “*your*” means the disabled beneficiary.

(i) “*Individual work plan*” or “*IWP*” means an employment plan under which an employment network (other than a State vocational rehabilitation agency) provides services to a disabled beneficiary under the Ticket to Work program. An individual work plan must be developed under, and meet the re-

quirements of, the rules in subpart G of this part (§§411.450-411.470).

(j) “*Individualized plan for employment*” or “*IPE*” means an employment plan under which a State vocational rehabilitation agency provides services to individuals with disabilities (including beneficiaries assigning tickets to it under the Ticket to Work program) under a State plan approved under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 720 *et seq.*). An individualized plan for employment must be developed under, and meet the requirements of, 34 CFR 361.45 and 361.46.

(k) “*Program manager*” or “*PM*” means an organization in the private or public sector that has entered into a contract with us to assist us in administering the Ticket to Work program. The rules on the use of one or more program managers to assist us in administering the program are described in subpart D of this part (§§411.230-411.250).

(l) “*Social Security disability benefits*” means the benefits described in paragraph (q) of this section.

(m) “*State vocational rehabilitation agency*” or “*State VR agency*” means a State agency administering or supervising the administration of the State plan approved under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 720 *et seq.*). In those States that have one agency that provides VR services to non-blind individuals and another agency that provides services to blind individuals, this term refers to either State agency.

(n) “*Supplemental Security Income benefit under title XVI*” means a cash benefit under section 1611 or 1619(a) of the Act, and does not include a State supplementary payment, administered Federally or otherwise.

(o) “*Ticket*” means a document described in §411.120 which the Commissioner may issue to disabled beneficiaries for participation in the Ticket to Work program.

(p) “*Ticket to Work program*” or “*program*” means the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program under section 1148 of the Act.

(q) *“Title II disability beneficiary”* means an individual entitled to disability insurance benefits under section 223 or to monthly insurance benefits under section 202 of the Act based on such individual’s disability as defined in section 223(d) of the Act. (See §404.1505 of this chapter.) An individual is a title II disability beneficiary for each month for which such individual is entitled to such benefits.

(r) *“Title XVI disability beneficiary”* means an individual eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits under title XVI on the basis of blindness (within the meaning of section 1614(a)(2) of the Act) (see §§416.981 and 416.982 of this chapter) or disability (within the meaning of section 1614(a)(3) of the Act) (see §416.905 of this chapter). An individual is a title XVI disability beneficiary for each month for which such individual is eligible for such benefits.

(s) *“We”* or *“us”* means the Social Security Administration.

Subpart B—Tickets Under the Ticket to Work Program

§411.120 What is a ticket under the Ticket to Work program?

(a) A ticket under the Ticket to Work program is a document which provides evidence of the Commissioner’s agreement to pay, under the rules in subpart H of this part, an employment network (EN) or a State VR agency to which a disabled beneficiary’s ticket is assigned, for providing employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, and other support services to the beneficiary.

(b) The ticket is a red, white and blue document approximately 6” by 9” in size. The left side of the document includes the beneficiary’s name, ticket number, claim account number and the date we issued the ticket. The ticket number is 12 characters and comprises the beneficiary’s own social security number, the letters “TW” and a number 1, 2, etc. A number 1 in the last position would signify that this is the first ticket the beneficiary has received, consistent with §411.125(b).

(c) The right side of the ticket includes the signature of the Commis-

sioner of Social Security, and the following language:

This ticket is issued to you by the Social Security Administration under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. If you want help in returning to work or going to work for the first time, you may offer this ticket to an Employment Network of your choosing or take it to your State vocational rehabilitation agency for services. If you choose an Employment Network and it agrees to take your ticket, or if you choose your State agency and you qualify for services, these providers can offer you the services you may need to go to work.

An Employment Network provides the services at no cost to you. The Social Security Administration will pay the Employment Network if you assign your ticket to it, and the Employment Network helps you to go to work and complies with other requirements of the Program. An Employment Network serving under the Program has agreed to abide by the rules and regulations of the Program under the terms of its agreement with the Social Security Administration for providing services under the Program. Your State agency can tell you about its rules for getting services.

§411.125 Who is eligible to receive a ticket under the Ticket to Work program?

(a) You will be eligible to receive a Ticket to Work in a month in which—

(1) You are age 18 or older and have not attained age 65;

(2)(i)(A) You are a title II disability beneficiary (other than a beneficiary receiving benefit payments under §404.316(c), §404.337(c), §404.352(d), or §404.1597a of this chapter); and

(B) You are in current pay status for monthly title II cash benefits based on disability (see subpart E of part 404 of this chapter for our rules on non-payment of title II benefits); or

(ii)(A) You are a title XVI disability beneficiary (other than a beneficiary receiving disability or blindness benefit payments under §416.996 or §416.1338 of this chapter);

(B) If you are an individual described in §416.987(a)(1) of this chapter, you are eligible for benefits under title XVI based on disability under the standard for evaluating disability for adults following a redetermination of your eligibility under §416.987 of this chapter; and

(C) Your monthly Federal cash benefits based on disability or blindness