

§411.170

plan on a regular basis and in the approximate time frames specified in the employment plan.

(b) *Extension period* is a period of up to three months during which you may reassign a ticket without being subject to continuing disability reviews. You may be eligible for an extension period if the ticket is in use and no longer assigned to an Employment Network (EN) or State VR agency (see §411.220).

(c) *Inactive status* is a status in which you may place your ticket if you are temporarily unable to participate or not actively participating in your employment plan. You may place a ticket in inactive status only during the initial 24-month period. Months during which your ticket is in inactive status do not count toward the time limitations for making timely progress toward self-supporting employment. You may keep your ticket in inactive status as long as you choose. However, because the ticket is not in use during months in which it is in inactive status, you will be subject to continuing disability reviews during these months.

(d) *Initial 24-month period* means the 24-month period that begins with the month following the month in which you first assigned your ticket. We do not count any month in which the ticket is not assigned to an EN or State VR agency, as described in §411.145, or any month during which the ticket is not in use because it is in inactive status (see §411.190(a)(2)) or because you were determined to be no longer making timely progress toward self-supporting employment under §411.190(a)(3) or §411.205.

(e) *Progress review* means the reviews the program manager (PM) conducts to determine if you are meeting the timely progress guidelines described in these regulations. (See §411.115(k) for a definition of the PM.) The method for conducting the 24-month progress review is explained in §411.195 and the method for conducting 12-month progress reviews is explained in §411.200.

(f) *Timely progress guidelines* means the guidelines we use to determine if you are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment. In general, we determine if you are making timely progress toward self-supporting

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employment using two distinct criteria with defined time frames. These criteria are active participation in your employment plan during the initial 24-month period and increased work and earnings during subsequent 12-month progress review periods (see §411.180 to §411.190, §411.195 and §411.200).

(g) *12-month progress review period* means the 12-month period that begins either following the end of the initial 24-month period or following the previous 12-month progress review period. We do not count any month during which your ticket is not assigned to an EN or State VR agency, as described in §411.145.

(h) *Using a ticket* means that you have assigned a ticket to an EN or State VR agency and are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment. (See §411.171 for a discussion of when the period of using a ticket ends.)

DEFINITION OF USING A TICKET

§411.170 When does the period of using a ticket begin?

The period of using a ticket begins on the effective date of the assignment of your ticket to an EN or State VR agency under §411.140.

NOTE: If your period of using a ticket ends because you have previously failed to meet the timely progress guidelines under §§411.180 through 411.190, the period of using a ticket will resume if you satisfy the requirements for re-entering in-use status. (See §411.210.)

§411.171 When does the period of using a ticket end?

The period of using a ticket ends with the earliest of the following—

(a) The month before the month in which the ticket terminates as a result of one of the events listed in §411.155;

(b) The day before the effective date of a decision under §411.190; §411.195, §411.200, or §411.205 that you are no longer making timely progress toward self-supporting employment;

(c) The close of the three-month extension period which begins with the first month in which your ticket is no longer assigned to an EN or State VR agency (see §411.145), unless you reassign your ticket within the three-month extension period (see §411.220 for

an explanation of the three-month extension period);

(d) The 60th month for which an outcome payment is made to your EN (including a State VR agency) under subpart H of this part; or

(e) If you have assigned your ticket to a State VR agency which selects the cost reimbursement payment system, the 60th month for which an outcome payment would have been made had the State VR agency chosen to serve you as an EN.

§411.175 What if I assign my ticket after a continuing disability review has begun?

(a) If we begin a continuing disability review before the date on which you assign a ticket, you may still assign the ticket and receive services under the Ticket to Work program. However, we will complete the continuing disability review. If in this review we determine that you are no longer disabled, in most cases you will no longer be eligible to receive benefit payments. However, if you assigned your ticket before we determined that you are no longer disabled, in certain circumstances you may continue to receive benefit payments (see §§404.316(c), 404.337(c), 404.352(d), and 416.1338 of this chapter). If you appeal the decision that you are no longer disabled, you may also choose to have your benefits continued pending reconsideration and/or a hearing before an administrative law judge on the cessation determination (see §§404.1597a and 416.996 of this chapter).

(b) The date on which we begin the continuing disability review is the date on the notice we send you that tells you that we are beginning to review your disability case.

GUIDELINES FOR TIMELY PROGRESS
TOWARD SELF-SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT

§411.180 What is timely progress toward self-supporting employment?

(a) *General.* The purpose of the Ticket to Work program is to provide you with the services and supports you need to work and reduce or eliminate your dependence on Social Security disability benefits and/or SSI benefits based on disability or blindness. We consider you to be making timely progress toward self-supporting em-

ployment when you show an increasing ability to work at levels which will reduce or eliminate your dependence on these benefits.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this subpart—

(1) *Initial 24-month period* means the 24-month period that begins with the month following the month in which you first assigned your ticket. (See §§411.220(e) and 411.225(c) for when a new initial 24-month period may be established for you.) We do not count any month during which the ticket is not assigned to an EN or State VR agency, as described in §411.145, or any month during which the ticket is not in use because it is in inactive status (see §411.190(a)(2)) or because you were determined to be no longer making timely progress toward self-supporting employment under §411.190(a)(3) or §411.205.

(2) *12-month progress review period* means the 12-month period that begins either following the end of the initial 24-month period or following the previous 12-month progress review period. We do not count any month during which your ticket is not assigned to an EN or State VR agency, as described in §411.145.

(c) *Guidelines.* We will determine whether you are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment by using the following guidelines:

(1) During the initial 24-month period after you assign your ticket, you must be actively participating in your employment plan. “Actively participating in your employment plan” means that you are engaging in activities outlined in your employment plan on a regular basis and in the approximate time frames specified in the employment plan. These activities may include employment, if agreed to in the employment plan. At the end of the initial 24-month period, you must successfully complete the 24-month progress review, as described in §411.195. If you worked in one or more months during the initial 24-month period at the level of work applicable to the work requirement for the first 12-month progress review period, each such month of work may be used to reduce by one month the number of months of work referred