

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

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to in §411.195(a)(2) and §411.195(a)(3) for purposes of meeting the requirements of those sections regarding a goal of three months of work during the first 12-month progress review period.

(2) During your first 12-month progress review period, you must work (as defined in §411.185) for at least three of these 12 months. The three months do not need to be consecutive. If you worked 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 required for the first 12-month progress review period.

(3) During your second 12-month progress review period, and in later 12-month progress review periods, you must work (as defined in §411.185) for at least six of these 12 months. The six months do not need to be consecutive.

§411.185 How much do I need to earn to be considered to be working?

For the purpose of determining if you are meeting the timely progress requirements for continued ticket use, we will consider you to be working in each month in which you have earnings at the following levels:

(a) For title II disability beneficiaries:

(1) During your first and second 12-month progress review periods, we will consider you to be working in a month in which you have earnings from employment or self-employment at the SGA level for non-blind beneficiaries, as defined in §§404.1572 through 404.1576 of this chapter. For a month in which you are in a trial work period (see §404.1592 of this chapter), or if you are statutorily blind as defined in §404.1581 of this chapter, we will consider the following as fulfilling this requirement—

(i) Gross earnings from employment, before any deductions for impairment related work expenses under §404.1576 of this chapter, that are more than the SGA threshold amount for non-blind beneficiaries in §404.1574(b)(2) of this chapter; or

(ii) Net earnings from self-employment (as defined in §416.1110(b) of this chapter), before any deductions for im-

pairment related work expenses under §404.1576 of this chapter, that are more than the SGA threshold amount for non-blind beneficiaries in §404.1574(b)(2) of this chapter.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (a)(1): If you worked in one or more months during the initial 24-month period at the level of work described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, those months of work may be used to meet certain requirements of the 24-month progress review as explained in §411.180(c)(1) and the work requirements for the first 12-month progress review period as explained in §411.180(c)(2).

(2) During your third 12-month progress review period, and during later 12-month progress review periods, we will consider you to be working in a month for which Social Security disability benefits are not payable to you because of your work or earnings.

(b) For title XVI beneficiaries:

(1) During your first and second 12-month progress review periods, we will consider you to be working in a month in which you have—

(i) Gross earnings from employment, before any SSI income exclusions, that are more than the SGA threshold amount for non-blind beneficiaries in §404.1574(b)(2) of this chapter; or

(ii) Net earnings from self-employment (as defined in §416.1110(b) of this chapter), before any SSI income exclusions, that are more than the SGA threshold amount for non-blind beneficiaries in §404.1574(b)(2) of this chapter.

Example to paragraph (b)(1): If you earn \$750 in January 2001, but exclude \$200 of this income in a Plan for Achieving Self-Support (see §§416.1180-416.1182 of this chapter), you would still be considered to be working in that month.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (b)(1): If you worked in one or more months during the initial 24-month period at the level of work described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, those months of work may be used to meet certain requirements of the 24-month progress review as explained in §411.180(c)(1) and the work requirements for the first 12-month progress review period as explained in §411.180(c)(2).

(2) During your third 12-month progress review period, and during any later 12-month progress review periods, we will consider you to be working in a month in which you have earnings