What is Ticket to Work?
It is a free and voluntary program that can help Social Security beneficiaries go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career, and financial independence, all while keeping Medicare or Medicaid. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program.

According to Social Security rules, if your Ticket is available for assignment, then completing and signing your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and receiving services from IDVR means that your Ticket is “In Use” with IDVR. IDVR will work with you to develop a plan for services to help you to achieve and maintain employment based on your goals.

After you achieve employment and your case with IDVR is closed, your Ticket will be taken out of “In Use” status. Once employed, IDVR will facilitate a connection with a partner Employment Network that can provide employment supports to help you continue your employment.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the Ticket to Work program help me?
▪ You may be able to receive services and/or develop skills that will help you to find a job with health benefits and earnings greater than your SSDI or SSI check.

▪ SSA will not conduct a Continuing Disability Review (CDR), which determines if you will continue to receive benefits based on your disability, if your Ticket is “In-Use” with IDVR or an EN and you meet SSA’s Timely Progress requirements.

Do I need my paper Ticket?
▪ NO. SSA mails a letter that explains the Ticket to Work process and a list of providers in your area. You do not have to have the Ticket letter to access IDVR services. IDVR will work with SSA to ensure your Ticket is available and assignable for use with our agency.

Do I have to use my Ticket?
▪ NO, SSA does not require that you use or assign your Ticket to an EN or IDVR. However, if you sign a plan for services with IDVR, SSA considers your Ticket to be “In Use” with IDVR.

Does assigning my Ticket to VR adversely affect my benefits?
▪ NO. In fact, it provides protection such as a Continuing Disability Review exemption and can assist you in accessing important services.
What is Timely Progress?
Timely Progress is a way for Social Security to track the progress you are making on your employment and educational goals. Typically, Social Security will send you annual paperwork to complete and return to them to demonstrate this progress.

What if Social Security determines I have not made timely progress?
If you are unable to demonstrate sufficient progress towards employment or educational goals, this does not mean that Social Security will find you no longer disabled. Instead, you simply will be subject to your Continuing Disability Review at its regularly scheduled time. Furthermore, IDVR will NOT close your case simply because you do not meet Social Security’s Timely Progress criteria.

RESOURCES
For information on the Ticket to Work Program and Employment Networks:
Call 1-866-YOURTICKET (1-866-968-7842) or for TTY/TDD call 1-866-833-2967 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST (Monday through Friday). Or visit online at: www.chooseworkttw.net or https://www.ssa.gov/work/

SSA Information:
Ticket video
Ticket to Work fact sheet
Ticket brochure