



and the Ticket to Work / New York's Employment Network

April 5, 2012

John B. Allen Jr., Special Assistant to the
Commissioner, NYS Office of Mental Health

Catalyst: NYS' Medicaid Infrastructure Grant



New York **Makes Work Pay**

Developing a path to employment for New Yorkers with disabilities

Designing a Comprehensive Employment System for New Yorkers of all Abilities

- A single approach to linking and coordinating employment supports
- Provide all New Yorkers with a single point to access to all employment-related services, regardless of their (*dis*)ability
- Goal : Positively impact the ability of New Yorkers with disabilities to find and retain competitive and integrated employment opportunities.

New York's Inclusive Workforce

State and Regional Associations in full support of the vision presentation:

Cerebral Palsy Associations
of New York State



Cornell University
ILR School
Employment and Disability Institute



CMEP/Coalition of Mainstream
Employment Programs



Correctional Educational Consortium, Inc.



INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
of Mental Retardation and
Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.



LDA
Learning Disabilities
Association of New York State, Inc.



What is NYESS?

New York Employment Services System

- Developed/Managed Jointly by OMH and DOL
- Utilized MIG Funding to create sustainable system infrastructure
- Phased In Implementation Approach
- Leverages and Expands on the existing technologies and resources of DOL and OMH

What is NYESS?

NYESS Joint Resources of NYSDOL and OMH

DOL Technologies:



- NYS Job Bank <http://NY.jobs>
- One-Stop Operating System (OSOS)
- Skills Match & Referral Technology- SMART
- Job Zone - Web Career Planning Resources
- Career Zone – Web Career Exploration Tool

OMH Technologies:



- ❖ NYESS Web Portal www.nyess.ny.gov
- ❖ NYESS On-Line Registration and Single Sign On
- ❖ NYESS Web-based Data Reporting System

What is NYESS?

Participating Agencies

*Long Term Goal:
Participation of
All Agencies Providing
Employment Services
and/or Serving
Individuals with
Employment Goals*

Current Participating NYESS Phase I Agencies



Benefits for One Stop Centers

- Upgraded hardware / system responsiveness
- Data Warehouse functions including ad/hoc report generation to meet reporting needs
- Single sign on process with automated user account creation
- Integration of services
 - Facilitating referrals
 - Coordination of supports
 - Disability expertise consultation
- Ongoing commitment for Disability Employment Initiative
- Expansion of Benefit Advisement assistance

What is the Ticket to Work Program?

- Social Security's Ticket to Work program supports career development for people with disabilities who want to work. Social Security disability beneficiaries 18 through 64 qualify. The Ticket program is free and voluntary and exists specifically to help people with disabilities progress toward financial self-sufficiency. The Ticket program is a good fit for people who would like to improve their earning potential and who are committed to preparing for long-term success in the workforce. Ticket to Work offers beneficiaries with disabilities improved access to meaningful employment with the help of specialized providers. If you are ready to go to work, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives professionals are available to help you.
- The career development services and support you need are unique to you. The Ticket program can connect you with a variety of free employment support services that will best serve you.
- The Ticket program and Work Incentives allow you to keep your benefits while you explore employment, receive vocational rehabilitation, or gain work experience. Cash benefits often continue throughout your transition to work and are eliminated only when you maintain a level of earnings, known as Substantial Gainful Activity.

Who Qualifies?

- Everyone ages 18 through 64 who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of their disability, is eligible to participate in the Ticket to Work program. If you're ready to work, the Ticket program can help you get started!

Keeping Cash Benefits While Going to School or Working For SSDI and SSI Recipients:

- **Postponement of Medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs).** Social Security conducts periodic reviews of disability cases to see if beneficiaries are still eligible for disability benefits based on their medical conditions. If a beneficiary no longer meets Social Security's medical definition of disability, disability cash benefits will stop based on the results of a medical CDR. While you are using your Ticket or receiving services from your State VR agency, Social Security will postpone these medical reviews as long as you are working toward your employment goal.
- **Continued Payment Under a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) or Similar Program.** Allows disability benefits to continue until your vocational rehabilitation program is completed even if Social Security finds you no longer have a disabling impairment due to medical improvement.
- **Expedited Reinstatement.** If you stop working because of your disability within 5 years of when your cash benefits ended because of work, Social Security may be able to start your benefits again without a new application.
- **Impairment Related Work Expenses.** These are expenses that you have as a direct result of your disability and which are necessary for you to work.
- **Subsidy and Special Conditions.** These are supports provided by your employer or someone other than your employer that may result in your receiving more pay than the actual value of the services you perform. The value of this support can be deducted from your countable earnings.
- **Special Rules For Individuals Who Are Blind.** There are additional Work Incentives designed to assist individuals who are blind. For more information, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10052.html>

For SSDI Recipients Only:

- **Trial Work Period (TWP).** The TWP allows you to test your ability to work for at least 9 months while still getting cash benefits.
- **Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE).** During the 36 months after the Trial Work Period, Social Security may restart your SSDI benefits without a new application, disability determination, or waiting period.
- **Unsuccessful Work Attempt (UWA).** A UWA is work of 6 months or less that Social Security does not count as earnings during an EPE.
- **Unincurred Business Expenses (Self Employment only).** These are contributions made by others to your self-employment business effort which Social Security deducts from countable earnings.

For SSI Recipients Only:

- **Earned Income Exclusion.** Less than half of your earnings are counted by Social Security as earned income which may allow you to continue receiving an SSI check while working.
- **Student Earned Income Exclusion.** Gives students under age 22 flexibility to keep more of their cash benefits while working and going to school.
- **Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS).** A PASS plan allows you to set aside income and resources to achieve your work goal. PASS expenses are not counted when Social Security figures your monthly SSI payment.
- **Property Essential to Self-Support.** Social Security will not count some resources when determining continuing eligibility for SSI.

Keeping Medical Benefits For SSDI Recipients Only

- **Continuation of Medicare Coverage.** Most individuals with disabilities who work will receive at least 93 consecutive months of medical insurance under Medicare even if they no longer receive cash disability benefits.
- **Medicare for Individuals with Disabilities Who Work.** Some individuals with disabilities who have returned to work may buy continued Medicare coverage after premium-free coverage ends due to earnings from work.
- **Help with Medicare Part A Premiums.** Some individuals who return to work may be eligible for a program that helps pay Medicare Part A monthly premiums. Call 800-MEDICARE to get the contact information for your State's Medical Assistance office.

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For SSI Recipients Only:

- **Medicaid for Individuals with Disabilities While Working** [Section 1619(b)]. After you return to work, Medicaid coverage may continue even if your income is too high to receive SSI cash benefits. Eligibility to participate in Section 1619(b) is based on income, and the threshold limit varies by state. Visit the SSA Work Site to [find the limit for your state](#) and more information.
- **Medicaid Buy-In for Working Individuals with Disabilities.** Some states allow individuals with disabilities who are working to buy Medicaid coverage. To find out more about the Medicaid buy-in program, contact your State Medical Assistance office at 1-800-Medicare to get their telephone number.

What is an EN?

- An EN in an organizational entity (State or local, public or private) that enters into a contract with SSA with the intention of coordinating and delivering employment services, VR services, and/or other support services under the Ticket to Work Program. These services are provided by the EN to SSA beneficiaries who have assigned their Tickets to the EN which has accepted the Ticket.
- An EN may be either a single entity or a partnership of organizations combining their resources into a single entity. An EN may provide services necessary to prepare and place beneficiaries in employment, either directly or be entering into contracts with other providers of such services. **You can become an EN by completing the [EN RFQ](#).**

How does the Ticket Program work?

- Under the Ticket to Work program, SSA may issue a Ticket to an eligible beneficiary, who in turn may "assign" that Ticket to any EN of the beneficiary's choice that is serving under the Ticket Program and is willing to accept the "assignment." ENs may select the beneficiaries with whom they will work/accept assignment of Tickets. An EN can grow their bottom line with the payments from these successful outcomes. **(The best part about the payments is that SSA permits discretionary flexible utilization of revenue when you help beneficiaries obtain and retain employment.)**

What's the difference between an outcome payment month and a milestone?

- An outcome payment month is a month in which SSA pays no Federal cash disability benefits to a beneficiary because of work or earnings. Under both EN payment systems, the maximum number of outcome payment months for each Ticket is 36 for a SSDI or concurrent beneficiary and 60 for a SSI beneficiary. These 60 outcome payment months do not have to be consecutive.

A milestone occurs after a beneficiary starts working and before Federal cash benefits stop because of work or earnings. There are four Phase 1 milestones for which an EN can be paid. A beneficiary attains a milestone when he/she has gross earnings from employment (or net earnings from self-employment) that meet or exceed SSA's substantial gainful activity (SGA) threshold amount for the number of months specified in the following table.

Milestones

SGA Thresholds	SGA Threshold Amount Beneficiary Is Not Statutorily Blind	SGA Threshold Amount Beneficiary Is Statutorily Blind
2012	\$1,010	\$1,690

MILESTONE	NUMBER OF MONTHS EARNINGS MUST BE MORE THAN THE SGA THRESHOLD AMOUNT
1	1 month
2	3 months within a 6-month period
3	6 months within a 12-month period
4	9 months within a 18-month period

TTW Milestones

Calendar Year Milestone Attained	SSDI or Concurrent (SSDI/SSI) Ticket Beneficiary		SSI Only Ticket Beneficiary	
	Phase 1 Milestones	Phase 2 Milestones and Outcome Payments	Phase 1 Milestones	Phase 2 Milestones and Outcome Payments
07/2008-12/2008	\$1,117	\$353	\$1,117	\$203
2009	\$1,211	\$363	\$1,211	\$207
2010	\$1,275	\$382	\$1,275	\$220
2011	\$1,279	\$384	\$1,279	\$221
2012	\$1,288	\$387	\$1,288	\$222

Potential Revenue for EN / Provider

- These are flexible funds that can be used for many purposes
- Serve more people
- Hire additional Job Coach or Placement Specialist
- Create a flexible job support fund
- Hire a Work Incentives Planner
- Buy some new equipment

Payment Process

- Simplified EN Payment Process
 - Three options for requesting payment
 - > Evidentiary Payment Request (EPR)
 - Requires primary evidence of earnings
 - > Certification Payment Request (CPR)
 - Uses secondary evidence of earnings
 - > Auto Pay (coming soon)
 - SSA gathers evidence of earnings
- (less work for EN, takes longer to get paid)

Who wants to work?

- There are roughly 11.8 million people getting disability benefits from SSA
- > Approximately 6.4 million on SSDI
- > Approximately 3.9 million on SSI
- > Approximately 1.4 million dual eligibles
- SSA determined 92% of beneficiaries aged 18-39 with recent work history also have work goals
- > Nationally, this means about 470,000 beneficiaries who want to work
- *[Based on the results of the TTW Evaluation and the National Beneficiary Survey]*
- With all adult beneficiaries ages 18 through 64 now eligible to participate, there are lots of beneficiaries to go around

New York's Employment Opportunity 2011

- 3.2 Million Records Matched
 - 120,000 Individuals eligible for Tickets
 - 60,000 Individuals eligible for Payments
 - \$24.9 Million initial potential

Becoming an Employment Network

<http://www.ssa.gov/work/enrfp.html>

Social Security Online
www.socialsecurity.gov

Home FAQs Contact Us Text Size Search GO

The Work Site

Home > VRs/ENs > ENRFP

Employment Network Request for Quotation

Social Security has released a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Employment Networks (EN) under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. RFQ-11-0010K explains the duties of an EN, requirements for award consideration, and directions for submitting a quotation. [Click RFQ to learn more.](#)

NOTE: The highlighted areas in this document represent changes in language from the previous solicitations RFP-09-0010H and RFQ-11-0010J.

Social Security staff are available to answer any questions you may have about becoming an EN and submitting a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) quotation. Please direct your questions to the Employment Network Contracts Team as follows:

Email ENcontracts@ssa.gov
Toll Free # 866-584-5180
Toll Free TDD 866-584-5181
Fax 410-597-0429

In accordance with Section 1148(f) of the Social Security Act, this solicitation is not open to Federal agencies.

Search The Work Site:

Are you...

- [Receiving Benefits?](#)
- [An Employment Network or a Vocational Rehabilitation Agency?](#)
- [IPE Form](#)
- [Service Provider Directory](#)
- [Social Security Careers](#)
- [Ticket Tracker](#)
- [Looking for A Work Incentives Planning and Assistance project?](#)
- [Looking for A Protection and Advocacy organization?](#)
- [Interested in Ticket to Work EN Report Card Session \(Archive\)](#)

General information:

For More Information

- Visit SSA's Work Site at:
www.socialsecurity.gov/work
- Visit CESSI's web site at: www.cessi.net/ttw
- Visit Maximus web site at:
www.yourtickettowork.com

What is Different about Joining the NYESS EN?

- Statewide approval of the state acting as the Administrative Employment Network
 - No application process
 - Simplified billing
 - Simplified record keeping
 - All providers share based on their support efforts

Payments to Providers

- % of hour towards employment goal

$$\frac{\text{Number of employment service hours provided by my agency for } x}{\text{Number of employment services hours provided by all agencies for } x}$$

- Example of 4 agencies serving John Jones (100 hrs total)
 - Agency A provided 10 hours of service = 10%
 - Agency B provided 20 hours of service = 20%
 - Agency c provided 30 hours of service = 30%
 - Agency D provided 40 hours of service = 40%

Administrative Costs

- Ongoing operation of the NYESS system including upgrades and enhancements
- Support for Benefit Advisement / Life Coaching
- Support for the DEI initiative at NYSDOL

CUSTOMER

PROVIDER

EMPLOYER

STAFF

HELP

Customer Search

Customer Detail

Comp Assess

Services

boyd, andrew

SSN: 000-00-0373

OSOS ID: NY011654857

1 of 1

<< < **Res** Activities Comments Tests DEV RLL Background RLL Case Specific **Ticket to Work** NYESS Info TAA Information > >>

Ticket to Work

	Create Time	Create Admin	>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Ticket

Eligible

Assigned to NYESS Network? Yes No

Date Assigned/Signed

Signature on File? Yes No

Individual Employment Plan

Date Developed

Individual Employment Plan Yes No

Add Delete Print List

Help Print Record Audit

Save Start Match Services Comp Assess Activity I.A. Referrals Correspond IVR Return to Srch Comments Tag Resume Schedule

How to Join the NYESS EN

- As a provider who participates in the NYESS system already, you simply sign a contract with the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene

Support for Beneficiaries

- Brochure to assist you in helping beneficiaries understand the benefits of assigning their ticket to the Network
 - Greater flexibility
 - Simplification of effort for providers already serving them
 - Support from multiple providers
 - Ability to easily switch EN providers

Next Steps

- Visit the NYESS web page for draft contract with support documents www.nyess.ny.gov
- Contact my office to advise us of your desire:
 - New York State Office of Mental Health
Office of Consumer Affairs
44 Holland Avenue, 8th Floor
Albany, New York 12229
Phone: (518) 473–6579
- You will be then emailed a “fill in the blank” copy of the contract which will need to be completed, signed and returned to my office

Orientation for NYISER and NYESS Reporting

- Monday, April 16, 2012 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Register here:
- <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/888657768>

NYESS-Monthly Update and FAQ for NYESS Providers

Every Month from now to December, 2012.

Next one will be Friday, April 20th, from 1pm-to 3pm.

Register here:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/419715073>

Questions???