

Management

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President

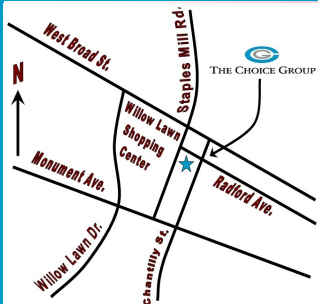


Robin holds degrees of Master of Education and Master of Science in Counseling, both from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), Certified Case Manager (CCM), National Certified Counselor (NCC), Certified Rehabilitation Provider (CRP), Approved Behavioral Consultant, and Certified Life Skills Trainer.

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THE CHOICE GROUP
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THE CHOICE GROUP



Ticket to Work
**Destination:
Independence**

If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and have a personal goal of obtaining employment and eventually getting off benefits, The Ticket to Work can help you achieve that goal.

Program Background

The Ticket to Work program was created by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 to remove many barriers which influence decisions that people with disabilities make about trying to work. The goal of the program is to increase self-sufficiency for Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities. The program matches beneficiaries who want to work and get off cash benefits with Employment Networks (EN's) which offer programs and support in preparing for employment, finding an appropriate job, and becoming stable and independent in it.

Employment Network Background

The Choice Group was founded in 1998 to provide career and counseling services to people with disabilities. Since then we have grown to be the largest provider of community based Supported Employment in the state. Our 40+ Vocational Counselors provide support to individuals as they achieve their employment goals from Winchester and Northern Virginia, through Hampton Roads and central Virginia to the Martinsville - Danville - Roanoke area. The Choice Group became an Employment Network under the Ticket to Work program in 2009.

Program Benefits

- Serves SSI and SSDI beneficiaries with available tickets from age 18 to 64.
- You do not need to have the paper Ticket to obtain services.
- Increases beneficiary choice in obtaining rehabilitation and vocational services, and lessens dependence on public benefits.
- Removes barriers that require people with disabilities to choose between health care coverage and work.
- Social Security waives Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR's) while the beneficiary's ticket is assigned and she/he is making progress towards established goals.
- Allows the Employment Network to collaborate effectively with the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) to help you find employment and provide Follow-Along services for several years.
- Gives you the option of working with an Employment Network if DRS is unable to provide services.
- If your cash benefits end because of earnings, and you lose your job because of the same disability within 5 years, you do not have to reapply for Social Security Benefits (Expedited Reinstatement).
- Medicare continues for up to 93 months following the 9th Trial Work Period month.
- Medicaid continues indefinitely if you continue to meet the resource and other requirements of SSI, and earn less than \$32,545 annually.

How the Program Works *

- Call us to discuss your interest and determine if the vocational services we offer are a good match for your goals.
- We will contact Maximus, the Ticket to Work Operations Support Manager (OSM), to determine if your Ticket is available.
- You will meet with us to review the program, obtain career counseling, and develop an Individual Work Plan (IWP).
- We will submit the IWP to Maximus for approval.
- Once approved, we will provide job placement and ongoing employment support services to help you achieve your goals.
- Our goal will be a position that is a good match for your skills and interests, and in which you will earn over \$720 per month for at least 9 of the first 18 months of employment.
- Following the first 18 months of employment, the goal will be monthly earnings over \$1000 for the next 11 months (SSDI) or 18 months (SSI).
- The final goal will be earned income sufficient to achieve \$0 cash benefit for 36 months (SSDI) or 60 months (SSI).

*2011 Program information, date 11/2/11