

# Ticket to Work

If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and have a personal goal of obtaining employment and financial independence, The Ticket to Work can help you achieve that goal. It matches beneficiaries with Employment Networks (EN) which offer programs and support in preparing for employment, finding an appropriate job, and becoming stable and independent in it.

## How the Program Works

- You are able to contact the Choice Group directly to learn about services available and to discuss program eligibility requirements. A counselor is ready and available to speak with you by phone, email or through the Choice Group website.
- We will communicate with you confidentially to determine if the vocational services we offer are a good match for you.
- We meet with you to review the program, set goals, and prepare a personalized plan reflecting the steps we will take to help you reach those goals.
- Once your ticket is assigned, we provide individualized information about the impact of earned income on your Social Security cash and health benefits.
- Additional customizable services available to you include: career counseling, resume and cover letter, job networking and placement, and vocational evaluation.
- Once you are employed, we will provide ongoing support services and advocacy to help you succeed, including: requesting reasonable accommodations, negotiating raises and promotions, and answering questions you have about your benefits.
- You have the choice to actively participate in services or request that services end at any time.

The Choice Group has cultivated partnerships with a broad range of employers in your area including: state and local government, healthcare, finance, skilled trade, non-profit, information technology, warehouse, education, production and hospitality. Call our office to speak with a counselor today (1-877-374-5312) or complete the online interest form. We welcome the opportunity to learn about your skills, experience and education and discuss what positions may be available to you.

- Through the Ticket to Work program, you have the opportunity, with support, to move from Social Security cash benefits to increased independence based on the money you earn at work.
- You will have support from a team of qualified staff, including a Vocational Counselor and a Social Security Specialist, who will provide you with the tools you need to make informed choices.
- Social Security will waive your Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) while your ticket is assigned and you are making progress towards established goals.
- If you are currently or have previously worked with a state agency, such as the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) or the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), we may be able to offer ongoing supports through the Ticket to Work Program to help you maintain employment and further your career goals.
- If, within five years of losing cash benefits, your disability prevents you from maintaining employment, your benefits can be reinstated without application.
- While employed, even after your cash benefit ends, you may have continued access to Medicare, Medicaid and/or employer sponsored benefit plans.

## About The Choice Group

The Choice Group has been dedicated to advancing employment for people with disabilities since 1998. As the largest provider of community based Supported Employment in the state, The Choice Group serves clients across most of Virginia. Our Vocational Counselors either live in your area or are a reasonable commute from it, and are knowledgeable of local job markets.

The Choice Group celebrates our clients' successes as they work in professional roles including:

- Senior IT Network Engineer
- Registered Nurse
- Customer Service Representative
- Retail Manager
- Community Service Board Case Manager
- Pharmaceutical Claims Technician
- CDL Driver
- University Professor
- Construction Engineer
- SQL Programmer
- Human Resources Staff Assistant
- Tech Consultant
- A+ Computer Repair
- System Administrator
- Library Technician
- Patient Coordinator
- Preschool Teacher
- Development Assistant