

# The Ticket To Work Program And Becoming A Tribal Employment Network



## What is the Ticket to Work program?

The Ticket to Work program is an employment support program for people with disabilities who receive benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and are interested in going to work or increasing their work. Its goal is to increase opportunities and choices for Social Security disability beneficiaries to obtain vocational rehabilitation, employment, and other support services from public and private providers, employers and other organizations. This includes federal programs operated by tribes, and tribally owned and operated entities and businesses.

## Who is eligible for services under the Ticket program?

Participation in the Ticket to Work program begins when an individual with a disability reaches an agreement with an employment network (EN). An EN is an entity that enters into an agreement with the Social Security Administration to either provide or coordinate the delivery of the necessary employment services to Social Security disability beneficiaries. In American Indian and Alaska Native communities, employment networks could be federally funded tribal programs, like a tribal workforce agency, a tribal vocational rehabilitation services project, or a tribal owned business, like a tribal gaming enterprise.

## Why should tribal entities become ENs?

According to the 2010 Census, 5.2 million people in the United States identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, either alone or in combination with one or more other races. Out of this total, 2.9 million people identified as American Indian and Alaska Native alone, and 2.3 million reported being American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races.

In 2003, the National Council on Disability reported that approximately 27% of the American Indian population between the

ages of 16 and 64 identified themselves as disabled. This represents hundreds of thousands of tribal members with disabilities.

The National Congress of American Indians passed a resolution in 2010 endorsing the Ticket to Work program and encouraging tribal nations to apply. It states, "NCAI urges tribal programs and tribal nations to apply for employment network status through the Ticket to Work initiative of the Social Security Administration." (NCAI Resolution ABQ-10-017)

## How does the Ticket program work?

The Ticket program is a performance-based program. An EN receives payments when the individual with a disability achieves certain employment outcomes. The program is voluntary for the individual and for the employment network. The individual with a disability chooses if, when, and where to participate in the program.

Tribal employment networks who become ENs have access to the basic contact information for all eligible individuals who are in their service area and not working with another EN. ENs are encouraged to reach out to SSI and SSDI beneficiaries and disability advocates in their communities. ENs are not required to serve everyone unless otherwise mandated by other legislation or rules governing their organization. ENs elect which specific services they want to offer, which people they are capable of serving, and in which geographical area they will work.

## When will tribal ENs be paid?

When a beneficiary achieves certain paid employment outcomes, the tribal EN submits a request for payment and evidence of the individual's earnings to the program's Operations Support Manager. A notice will be sent when the request has been approved. The payment will then be deposited electronically to the EN's financial institution.

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## Where can I find more information about becoming a tribal EN?

To learn more about becoming an EN, contact our tribal EN specialists:

Donna M. De Julius at **703-336-8044** or [donnamdejulius@maximus.com](mailto:donnamdejulius@maximus.com)

Kimberly Cutler at **703-336-8067** or [kimberlycutler@maximus.com](mailto:kimberlycutler@maximus.com)

For additional information on Social Security's Employment Support Programs, you can visit the Ticket to Work website at [www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com) or Social Security's special website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work).

## Contacting Social Security

For more information and to find copies of our publications, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call toll-free, **1-800-772-1213** (for the deaf or hard of hearing, call our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**). We treat all calls confidentially. We can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call during the week after Tuesday. We can provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day.

We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some telephone calls.