



# Your Ticket to Work: What You Need to Know to Keep it Working For You

Congratulations on your participation in the Ticket to Work program. We hope this publication is informative and helps you be successful in the program.

## Will you review my disability while I am in the program?

We won't review your disability as long as you make progress in the Ticket to Work program. (If we started a disability review before you began participating, we'll finish the review.) If you have any questions about the Ticket to Work program, call the Ticket Call Center toll-free at **1-866-968-7842**, or TTY **1-866-833-2967**.

## How does Social Security determine my progress?

Your participation in the Ticket to Work program began when you signed an agreement with an employment network or state vocational rehabilitation agency. With their help, you developed an employment plan. While you're in the program, we'll review your progress in achieving the goals of your employment plan every 12 months.

The following table explains how we determine whether you're making timely progress.

As well as the items in this chart, earning a high school diploma or GED will satisfy the educational requirement for the first 12-month review.

## What happens if I am not making progress?

If we determine that you're not making progress in the Ticket to Work program, we won't suspend future medical reviews. You can continue in the Ticket program even if we find that you're not making progress.

## What if I start making progress again?

Whenever you think you're making progress again, contact the Ticket Call Center.

We'll make a decision about your progress. As long as you meet the disability rules, qualify to take part in the Ticket to Work program, and start making progress as expected, we won't begin a medical review.

12-month review period	Work requirement	Degree or certification program	Technical, trade or vocational program
First year	3 out of 12 months with trial work period level earnings	Completed 60 percent of full-time course load for 1 year	Completed 60 percent of full-time course load for 1 year
Second year	6 out of 12 months with trial work period level earnings	Completed 75 percent of full-time course load for 1 year	Completed 75 percent of full-time course load for 1 year
Third year	9 out of 12 months with substantial gainful activity level earnings*	Completed a 2-year program or, for a 4-year program, completed another academic year of full-time study	Completed the program
Fourth year	9 out of 12 months with substantial gainful activity level earnings*	Completed another academic year of full-time study	
Fifth year	6 out of 12 months of substantial gainful activity with no Social Security disability or SSI benefits	Completed another academic year of full-time study	
Sixth year	Work criteria are same as 5th year for following 12-month periods	Completed 4-year degree program	

\*In 2017, we consider earnings over \$1,170 (over \$1,950 if you are blind) to be substantial.

## What if I disagree with the decision?

Once we make our decision, we'll send you a letter explaining it. If you disagree with the decision, you have 30 days to ask Social Security to review it.

## Working and your benefits

### How do my earnings affect my benefits?

If you've completed your trial work period, are working, and have substantial earnings, we may stop your Social Security disability benefits. We can quickly start your benefits again if your income drops, or you stop work and are still disabled.

As your earnings increase, we reduce your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment amount until your earnings reach a high enough level that you're no longer eligible to receive a benefit payment. We count less than half of your earnings when figuring your SSI payment.

For an explanation of how earnings affect your benefits, get a copy of *Working While Disabled — How We Can Help* (Publication No. 05-10095). You can get a copy by visiting our website, [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Or, you can call our toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**).

### What happens to my health benefits?

Your Medicare may continue for at least 8½ years after you start to work if you're still disabled. Your Medicaid may also continue, depending on the state where you live and your earnings amount.

### Where can I get more information?

With retirement, disability, and survivors benefits, Social Security helps secure today and tomorrow for millions of people throughout life's journey. For more information about the Ticket to Work program, call the Ticket Call Center, toll-free at **1-866-968-7842**, or TTY **1-866-833-2967**. Or, you can visit our website, [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work).

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). There, you can: apply for benefits; open a *my* Social Security account, which you can use to review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, and get a replacement 1099/1042S; obtain valuable information; find publications; get answers to frequently asked questions; and much more.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

If you need to speak to a person, we can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience higher than usual rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.



Securing today  
and tomorrow

Social Security Administration  
Publication No. 05-10062 | ICN 463263 | Unit of Issue — HD (one hundred)  
January 2017 (Recycle prior editions)  
Your Ticket to Work: What You Need to Know to Keep it Working For You  
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense