



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 to Work Help Line 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 approximately 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 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 postpone 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 to Work Help Line.

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.

| Review period | Work requirement | Degree or certification program | Technical, trade or vocational program |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| First review | 3 months at or above the trial work period level* | Completed 60 percent of full-time course load for 1 year | Completed 60 percent of full-time course load for 1 year |
| Second review | 6 months at or above the trial work period level* | Completed 75 percent of full-time course load for 1 year | Completed 75 percent of full-time course load for 1 year |
| Third review | 9 months at or above the substantial gainful activity level** | Completed a 2-year program or, for a 4-year program, completed another academic year of full-time study | Completed the program |
| Fourth review | 9 months at or above the substantial gainful activity level** | Completed another academic year of full-time study | |
| Fifth review | 6 months of work and have earnings in each of those months that prevent payment of SSDI and Federal SSI benefits | Completed another academic year of full-time study | |
| Sixth review | Work criteria are same as 5th review for this and subsequent reviews | Completed 4-year degree program | |

*In 2019, we consider you to be working for the trial work period if your earnings are over \$880 per month.

**In 2019, we consider earnings over \$1,220 (over \$2,040 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, please read *Working While Disabled — How We Can Help* (Publication No. 05-10095). You can get a copy by visiting our website, www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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 to Work Help Line, toll-free at **1-866-968-7842**, or TTY **1-866-833-2967**. Or, you can visit our website, www.socialsecurity.gov/work.

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit 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 SSA-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 a 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
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