

## **An Overview of the Social Security Ticket to Work Program**

- The Ticket to Work Program offers you choice to get services you need to become and stay employed, to which you are able. This program is offered by the Social Security Administration.
- You may choose the assistance of Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), a State Vocational Rehabilitation agency. At MRS, a professional rehabilitation counselor can help you with your future job goal. Or you may choose to work with a different service provider, known as an Employment Network.
- The ticket program is voluntary - you choose if you want to use this offer by Social Security.
- If you choose to receive services to work, you will be considered participating in the ticket program after completing a employment plan, agreed upon by both you and your MRS counselor. You do not need a ticket document in order to participate in the program.
- Your ticket can be placed with one service provider at a time. If your ticket is placed elsewhere while working with MRS, you will be notified by your counselor before providing further services.
- As per Social Security, all disability beneficiaries undergo medical reviews. Your review will be delayed if you meet Social Security progress goals. A list of Social Security progress goals of work and earnings are on the back of this sheet.
- If you are not able to meet Social Security's progress goals, you will be required to undergo your regularly scheduled medical review. You can still participate in the ticket program.
- If you have questions, or would like more information or to obtain a list of providers, you can call SSA's Beneficiary Access and Support Services (BASS), toll-free, at (866) 968-7842. You can also visit Social Security's Ticket to Work work site at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work>
- Social Security also provides work incentives to assist you as you increase your independence through employment. For more information, you can:
  - Ask your MRS counselor as to the availability of an office specialist. Not all MRS offices staff a specialist specific to Social Security work incentives.
  - Contact your local Social Security office or call the national toll-free number at (800) 772-1213 for location information nearest you.
  - Contact BASS toll-free at (866) 968-7842.
  - Read information from the Social Security website, located at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/generalinfo.htm> or sign-up to attend a free Work Incentives Seminar Event at <https://www.chooseworkttw.net/wise/jsp/wise.jsp>
  - For additional social security information and resources in your return to work, refer to Social Security's Red Book at <http://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/main.htm>

## Timely Progress Guidelines (During Each 12-month Progress Review Period)

<b>1<sup>st</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	Complete 3 months of work at Trial Work Level (TWL) amount; <b>OR</b> complete GED or high school diploma; <b>OR</b> complete 60% of a full-time course load for an academic year in a college or technical, trade or vocational training program; <b>OR</b> complete a combination of this work and education requirement.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	Complete 6 months of work at Trial Work Level (TWL) amount; <b>OR</b> complete 75% of a full-time course load for an academic year in a college or technical/trade/vocational training program; <b>OR</b> complete a combination of this work and education requirement.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	Complete 9 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount; <b>OR</b> complete an additional full-time academic year of study, <b>OR</b> complete a 2-year or 4-year college program; <b>OR</b> complete a 2-year technical, trade, or vocational training program; <b>OR</b> complete a combination of this work and education requirement.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	Complete 9 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount; <b>OR</b> complete an additional academic year of full-time study; <b>OR</b> complete a combination of this work and education requirement.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked; <b>OR</b> complete an additional academic year of full-time study; <b>OR</b> complete a 4-year degree program.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked; <b>OR</b> complete a 4-year degree program.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> 12 Month Review:</b>	*Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked.

\*The guidelines for any subsequent 12-month Progress Review are the same as for the 7<sup>th</sup> 12-month Progress Review {Source: Maximus, Ticket to Work Program}.