

What is Benefits Planning?

Benefits planning helps you understand how working impacts benefits by having a meeting with a DVR Benefits Technician so you can make an informed choice.

Some of the benefits that can be affected include: Social Security, Food Stamps, Housing, Medical (Medicaid or Medicare), and Waiver Services.



If I go to work, will my benefits be affected?

When you receive federal or state benefits, returning to work might impact them, but by working you will earn more money.

Programs such as Medicaid, Social Security Work Incentives, and Income Disallowances for housing assistance can help reduce or eliminate potential benefit problems.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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DSHS-22-1730 (8/17)

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Benefits Planning and “Ticket to Work”



Individuals who work with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to achieve a vocational goal can be referred for benefits planning services.

How do you get referred for Benefits Planning?

Your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will have you sign two Social Security release forms and complete a benefits planning checklist at any point in the vocational rehabilitation (VR) process.

When does Benefits Planning occur?

- After eligibility, but before the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).
- If and when a VRC refers you to a Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) for job placement, and if there is a change in wages and/or work level goals from the previous benefits planning meeting.
- When you accept a paid job.
- At any point in the process if requested or need additional information/clarification.

What is the “Ticket to Work” program?

The “Ticket to Work” program is voluntary for people who receive Social Security Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). “Ticket to Work” is administered by Social Security and is available to beneficiaries.

The goal of Ticket to Work is to help SSDI/SSI beneficiaries obtain employment and earn enough money where they no longer need Social Security cash benefits. Ticket to Work gives beneficiaries a choice in how they receive services in order to go to work or earn more money.

A beneficiary can receive services from either a state VR program or an Employment Network (EN). An EN is a private organization or government agency that has agreed to work with Social Security to provide employment services to beneficiaries.

How do I use my ticket from “Ticket to Work”?

Participation and use of your ticket is voluntary, however, when you are working with DVR and sign your Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) you are using your ticket. When your ticket is in use with DVR, you have to meet program goals to maintain “Ticket to Work” eligibility requirements.



When your ticket is in use with DVR, your medical reviews are suspended because the end goal is to become self-sufficient where you no longer need social security benefits.

If you do not meet “Ticket to Work” goals, you will not be terminated from social security or vocational rehabilitation services.

