

The Ticket to Work program, enacted on December 17, 1999 as part of the “*Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (TWWIA)*,” under the Social Security Administration (SSA) provides support for persons between the ages of 18 and 64 with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) as they move into employment by giving states flexible options to offer employment and health care services to this population.

### **Employment**

Under Title I of the TWWIA, employment support is offered to SSI and SSDI recipients who will receive a "ticket" from the SSA to one of several employment networks and/or Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. The ticket will allow the recipient to obtain a variety of services including job search, job training, job coaching, etc. Although the act passed in 1999, the regulations to implement the program were just recently published, and benefits are just now- as of February 27, 2002 - beginning to be available to beneficiaries in some states.

### **Health Care**

The Ticket to Work program, under Title II, created two new optional Medicaid eligibility categories. The first is called the "Basic Coverage Group". Under this option, states can offer Medicaid to working adults (ages 16-65) with disabilities who would qualify for Medicaid, except for their income and resources, including both persons who never received SSI as well as those leaving SSI for work. States can set their own income limits or other related standards.

The second category is called the "Medical Improvement Group". Under this option, states may elect to continue to offer Medicaid to working persons with disabilities whose disability has improved to the point where they are no longer SSI eligible. States that opt for the second coverage group must also cover the first group. States may also charge premiums, or fees on a sliding scale basis under either of these eligibility groups.

As part of the Act, two new grant programs were established to assist states in implementing these provisions. The Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Program provides grants to states to help them design and operate health care delivery systems that support the employment of persons with disabilities. One criterion states must meet to be eligible for these grants is that they offer personal assistance (a Medicaid optional service) to working individuals with disabilities.

A second grant program, the Medicaid Demonstration to Increase Independence and Employment grant offers states an opportunity to create demonstration programs for assisting persons who are at-risk for developing blindness or disability with early access to Medicaid and employment services.

Employment services under Ticket to Work are for persons ages 18-64 but the Medicaid eligibility is extended to persons ages 16 – 64.



SSA is phasing in the Ticket to Work Title I employment program over a three year period beginning in 2002 In 2002 the following states will offer the Ticket program: Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont and Wisconsin.

**Resources**

SSA has contracted with an organization called Maximus to manage the Ticket to Work program by providing a toll free Ticket to Work Help Line, which can be reached by calling 1-866-YOUR-TICKET (1-866-968- 7842), or 1-866-833-2967 for the TTY line.

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s Healthy and Ready to Work makes available a Ticket to Work video on their website at <http://www.mchbhrw.org/ssawork/ticketvideo.htm>

Information about the employment provisions of the Ticket to Work (Title I) program are located on the SSA website at <http://www.ssa.gov/work/> Information about the health care provisions (Title II) is located on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Website at <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/twwiihlp.htm>