

THE PENNSYLVANIA WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE (WIPA) PROGRAM



Social Security's "Ticket to Work"
and Other Work Incentives
Can Help You Return to Work
and Stay Employed

Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choosing to Work

Are you a Social Security beneficiary with a disability who received a Ticket to Work, or who is interested in returning to work?

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act increases your choice in employment services and provides help for you to navigate work rules and regulations. All of these initiatives are designed to help you participate in the workforce and increase your financial self-sufficiency.

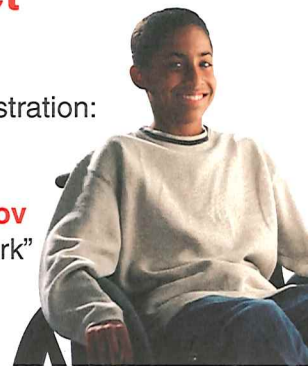
The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers numerous work incentives that can help you transition into employment, including statewide services that can help you identify and use these work incentives!

In addition, Pennsylvania offers health insurance for workers with disabilities that's affordable and allows you to earn more money and keep medical coverage!

Other Contact Information

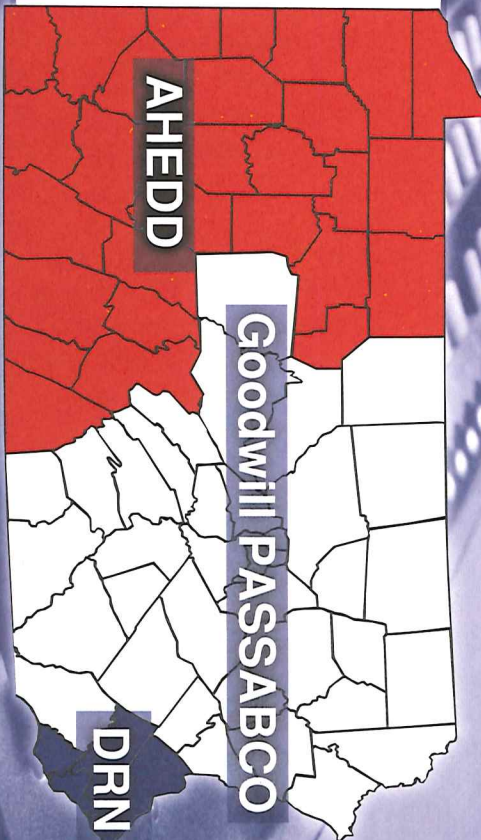
Social Security Administration:
1-800-772-1213.

See the SSA website
www.socialsecurity.gov
and select "Ticket to Work"



WIPA by Region

- **Western PA & Southern Allegheny Region:**
AHEDD, (866) 902-4333, ext 191
- **Central and Northeastern PA:**
Goodwill PASSABCO, (866) 541-7005
- **Southeastern PA:**
Disability Rights Network of PA (DRN)
Transition to Employment
(800) 692-7443, ext 309



Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program is a statewide service designed to help you to understand work rules and regulations and to access work incentives available under the SSI and SSDI programs. A WIPA Coordinator can meet with you individually to discuss how returning to work will impact your benefits as well as recommend work incentives that can maximize your income and healthcare options as you return to work and achieve greater financial self-sufficiency. The Staff can also help you identify and access appropriate Employment Networks and other employment support services that can help you return to work.

Ticket to Work

The WIPA is designed to complement a beneficiary's efforts that are participating in the Ticket to Work, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or other employment strategy.

SSA's Ticket to Work Program allows you to choose from a list of providers



(called Employment Networks) to help you prepare for and obtain a job. Employment Network services might include job training and education, assistance to identify and obtain assistive technology, and helping you to identify and secure a job. Employment Networks could include community-based organizations, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and your local CareerLink. The Ticket program is completely voluntary and at no cost to you.

MAXIMUS, Inc. is a company hired to manage the Ticket to Work Program. MAXIMUS, Inc. can be reached at their toll-free numbers:

1-866-968-7842
(1-866-YOURTICKET)
or 1-866-833-2967 TTY
(1-866-TDD 2 WORK).



Visit their website for additional information at: www.yourtickettowork.com

Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

The PABSS assists SSA beneficiaries to overcome discrimination and barriers to obtaining work, returning to work, and/or maintaining work. This includes barriers that impede access to vocational and rehabilitation services, barriers to employment and support services (including transportation) necessary to enter the workplace, and reasonable

accommodation for your disability at your place of employment.

For further information, contact PABSS:

Voice (717) 236-8110 or (800) 692-7443 ext 400
TTY (717) 346-0293 or (877) 375-7139

Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities

Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) is offered through the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. MAWD lets Pennsylvanians with disabilities take a fulfilling job, earn more money and still keep their full medical coverage. With MAWD you can keep Medicaid while you work, even if your earnings increase above the limits for other Medicaid programs. Now you don't have to choose between a job and your health.

You do not need to be receiving SSA benefits to be eligible for MAWD! You need to have a qualifying impairment, be working or self-employed, and meet the income and asset requirements.

To find out more about MAWD or apply: contact your local County Assistance Office, or call the PA Department of Public Welfare help line at **(800) 692-7462** for more information. TTY/TTD users can call **(800) 451-5886**. Individuals can also apply online through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) at www.compass.state.pa.us.