



Rick Scott
Governor
Cynthia R. Lorenzo
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2011

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support

SUBJECT: Employment Network Agreement with the Social Security Administration

The Ticket to Work (TtW) program through the Social Security Administration (SSA) came about as an incentive to those people collecting Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance to go to work either full or part-time. While a customer is actively participating in the TtW program, they can get the help they need to find the job that is right for them and can safely explore work options without losing benefits. They may continue to receive healthcare benefits, will not receive a medical continuing disability review, and have access to an expedited reinstatement of benefits if their job situation does not work out.

Regional Workforce Boards can participate in this program by becoming an employment network (EN). An EN is an entity approved by SSA that takes responsibility for the actual delivery of services or the coordination/referral of services to an individual Ticket-holder. Many of you are already approved to be ENs. To recognize the higher level of service an EN must provide a Ticket holder, SSA offers the EN payments in unrestricted funds as an individual ticket holder reaches certain milestones and outcomes. The milestone-outcome payment method can result in up to \$23,164 of unrestricted payments over approximately five years for one customer. For more detailed information about the Ticket program, visit the website at, www.yourtickettowork.com.

ENs have always had a difficult time finding Ticket-holders. Some individuals don't realize they have a Ticket or the benefits of assigning that Ticket while others don't like to disclose that they have a Ticket because of the stigma of being labeled disabled. To try to overcome that obstacle, the SSA provided any EN that would submit to a Federal background check with a CD that listed all Ticket-holders in their area. Many ENs did not want to submit to the background check but those who did have realized the advantage to having that information and the flow of unrestricted funding generated by a successful program.

Agency for Workforce Innovation

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The SSA plans to discontinue the program that distributes the CDs with the Ticket-holder information. The Agency has been working with the SSA to devise a simpler alternative way for those regions that are ENs to receive from the SSA a list of customers that the region is already serving who have Tickets. As a pilot project with the SSA, the agency has become an EN for the sole purpose of transmitting data to the SSA. The Agency will send to the SSA data on participants that are now registered in our systems. They will then perform a data match and send directly to those regions that are ENs, a list of customers in that workforce region who have a ticket that is assignable. It will no longer be necessary for each EN to go through the Federal background checks that the SSA had insisted on in the past.

The Agency and the SSA are working out the operational details and the implementation date for the change. Please contact Diane Vacca at 850-245-7451 or diane.vacca@flaawi.com with questions regarding these proposed changes.

LAS/dmv

cc: Kevin Neal
Diane Vacca