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SSA TTW website for Beneficiaries



www.yourtickettowork.com

Mission Possible Employment Services Web page www.mpes.net



Red Book: the book that explains the Ticket to Work program in detail! An excellent resource for all beneficiaries.

www.ssa.gov/redbook
link to a Web page



"CARING HAS THE GIFT OF MAKING THE ORDINARY SPECIAL"

- ARTHUR C. CLARKE

We Believe in Nurturing Care

I recently visited my son and daughter-in-law with my four granddaughters. Their oldest daughter Mallory is 11 years old. She is a sweet, good natured girl who suffers with severe epilepsy. Her epilepsy has stolen most of her abilities that are normal for a child of 11. She wears pull ups, is non verbal and needs constant supervision.

In speaking to the younger granddaughters, they told me that along with their daily chores, they each chose one Mallory chore. The 4-year-old, puts her shoes on, the 6-year-old takes care of her toileting, and the 8-year-old helps feed her and get her into her car seat when they travel. I was so impressed that they chose on their own to help their older sister.

They are quickly learning to be caregivers and nurturers. Many of you will recognize the skills learned as the caregiver or helper to someone who is disabled. Many social workers and people working at Social Security have family members who are disabled. Every member of the Mission Possible (MPES) team has a family member who struggles with a disability. We've all learned to be caregivers and support people. These skills learned either as a child or adult help us be that support person for the people we work with. We understand the struggles of being disabled and many of your needs.

Mission Possible Employment Services support can come in many forms. For example, we help people with paperwork, we listen to your needs, we teach you about resources and services available to you. We also teach you about Social Security Disability process, the Ticket to Work program or how the Administrative Employment Network works.

We are here to help you, support you and be your partner in all our programs. Please feel free to contact us via e-mail, phone or text. We are happy to be your support person.

~ Patty





Social Wellness Month



Building Support on Your Path to Work

Jul 15, 2021

In recognition of Social Wellness month, we're looking at how social connections can support your career development.

So much of a person's employment journey, from applications to maintaining long-term employment, can feel like an independent and private experience. While no one can do a job for you, develop your professional skills, or achieve your career goals, you don't have to do all these things completely alone.

Having a support system of family, friends and professionals can be vital to helping you achieve your employment goals as well as maintaining good mental and emotional health during the highs and lows of job hunting and employment.

What is Social Support?

Social support is the result of developing and nurturing healthy relationships with others that you can rely on in a time of need to help you focus on the progress you've made and the long-term goals ahead of you.

Social support can take different forms including:

- Emotional Support: These are actions that make someone else feel cared for. Actively listening to a person talk about their feelings, offering verbal or physical gestures of sympathy or sending notes of encouragement are all examples of emotional support.
- Instrumental Support: This type of support includes physical actions such as completing housekeeping tasks, giving money or providing transportation.
- Informational Support: This includes providing information that has a positive impact on a person's wellbeing, such as telling someone about a job opening, helping them grow a professional network or connecting them to programs that offer specialized support.

Getting social support and being a part of a social relationship not only helps you during times of change, but it also has positive benefits for your emotional, mental and physical health.

Growing Your Social Network in Your Community

Getting involved in your community through volunteering is a great way to connect with likeminded individuals who share your interests. These social connections can become part of your support system and may even become professional connections that help you network and find future employment opportunities.

If you are pursuing additional training or education to achieve your employment goals, classmates, fellow interns or apprentices can be great additions to your social circle. They may be facing similar challenges and can help you problem solve or show you just how much you've accomplished since the beginning of your training, educational program, internship or apprenticeship.

If in-person opportunities are not available in your immediate area, online communities can be as helpful to your social wellbeing as in-person relationships. These digital spaces can help you find others in similar situations or who have similar experiences to share encouragement and understanding.

We at Mission Possible strive be an important part of your social support network, providing you with the informational support you need to confidently try to achieve your goals of sustained employment and financial independence.

Let us be your support

Social Wellness Month: Building Support on Your Path to Work - Ticket to Work - Social Security (ssa.gov)



Call
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Why is Benefits Counseling the Safest Path to Employment?

We have heard many on disability who are considering going to work ask *How much can I earn without impacting my benefits? Will my monthly benefit change? Will it immediately stop when I begin working? Will I lose my Medicare or Medicaid?* These are all valid concerns and great questions since being awarded Social Security Benefits may be a long-drawn-out process, and there is a lot of misinformation out there on how working can affect benefits.

Benefits counseling services from a trained and reputable source is vital in preparing for benefit changes *before* they happen.

What can a work incentives benefits counselor do for you?

- Verify benefits.
- Explain how earnings will impact state and federal benefits received. SSDI & SSI, housing assistance, food assistance programs, and healthcare (Medicare & Medicaid).
- Outline action items when there are changes to your situation.
- Inform & refer you to state Vocational Rehabilitation services or Employment Networks that might best fit your needs.
- Decide whether the Ticket program is the right path for you to achieve your employment goals and attain financial independence.
- Offer you an in-depth report about benefits specific to the beneficiary and explain when and how to report earnings to Social Security.
- Explain how Social Security work incentives can allow you to ease the transition to work without immediately losing your benefits.
- Describe income limits & timelines while working.
- Explain the importance of reporting your work earnings.
- Filling out necessary paperwork.
- Interpreting correspondence from both Social Security and state agencies that provide benefits.
- Assist in resolving benefits issues.

As you are considering returning to work, starting work for the first time, or increasing your work there may be concern, added stress and fear in the decision process. Benefit counseling services can help educate you about your specific benefits, discuss options to help you maintain needed health insurance coverage, and hopefully alleviate some of the concerns around budgeting.

The support provided through benefits counseling can help you focus more on your employment and career goals and lessen some of the fears about benefits when working. Benefits counseling will help you make informed decisions about work and offer peace of mind in knowing the options and safety nets available with Social Security work incentives.

Mission Possible has benefits counselors ready to assist with benefits and work incentive planning services, and we are devoted to walk alongside you on your path to employment!

<https://mpes.net/why-is-benefits-planning-the-safest-path-to-employment/>

~ Tina

Want to learn more?
Call me!
888-359-2366
or email me at
Tina@MPES.net

Invisible Disabilities and Accommodations in the Workplace

Mission Possible has worked for and with individuals with disabilities for many years. We readily recognize that not all disabilities are “**visible**” and are aware of the challenges our clients face when thinking about going to or returning to work after achieving disabled status and Social Security Benefits.

For example, “mental illness is not readily observable and one does not have to disclose their disability to a potential employer. Yet, mental health affects responses to stress (like starting a new job!) and how you interact with others on the job. The good news is that the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA.gov homepage](http://ADA.gov)) provides protection from discrimination in all areas of life, including the workplace.” ([Employment Supports for People with Invisible Disabilities - Ticket to Work - Social Security \(ssa.gov\)](#))

According to the National ADA Network (<https://adata.org/national-network>), a disability is “*any physical or mental impairment that significantly limits one or more of your major life activities. If your mental illness makes it difficult to perform important tasks at work, accommodations can allow you to better perform the essential functions of your job.*”

Another example, “someone navigating symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may struggle with anxiety and have difficulty focusing and making decisions at work. This can be stressful because they never know when their symptoms will show up. Some workplace accommodations that could help, in this instance include requesting written instructions to help address memory issues or adjusting the break schedule to accommodate a therapy appointment.”

Other examples of workplace accommodations with mental health conditions include:

- Allowing noise cancelling headphones to help reduce distracting noises
- Having access to apps for anxiety and stress
- Using wall planners or a color-coded system to help with time management and managing confusion
- Discussing flexible scheduling or options for working from home.

How Do I Request Reasonable Accommodations?

In order to receive an accommodation, you’ll need to discuss your disability with your employer, but talking about disclosure ([Disclosure: Let’s Talk About It - Ticket to Work - Social Security \(ssa.gov\)](#)) doesn’t have to be difficult.

- Keep it simple, you don’t have to go into every detail.
- You can talk to your supervisor, HR representative or ADA Coordinator and put your request in writing to document your request.
- If you have additional concerns about mental health support while maintaining employment, while coping with mental illness, find out if your employer has an Employee Assistance program (EAP) that allows you access to mental health professionals and counseling. EAP also offer tools for identifying triggers, tips for stress management. EAPs are usually offered at no cost to you as an employee; however there may be a limited number of sessions. [Employment Supports for People with Invisible Disabilities - Ticket to Work - Social Security \(ssa.gov\)](#)

I hope in sharing some of this information you will be better prepared to utilize the tools available to you to achieve workplace success in spite of your “Invisible Disability”

<https://mpes.net/blog> & [Employment Supports for People with Invisible Disabilities - Ticket to Work - Social Security \(ssa.gov\)](#)

Get Ready! Preparing for a Virtual Career Fair

If you are searching for work, you may find that the job hunt is less about hitting the pavement and more about typing on the keyboard. Applications have gone digital, recruiters find you through online networking sites like [LinkedIn](#) and career fairs have become virtual gatherings.

Career fairs are a great chance to put a face to a resume. They allow you to learn more about employers, meet with recruiters and even have on-the-spot interviews for immediate openings. Virtual career fairs are similar to traditional career fairs, but without having to travel.

The etiquette for attending a virtual career fair is not new, and we cover some of the basics in [Making the Most of a Virtual Career Fair](#). But, getting noticed during online interactions can feel different than connecting with someone in person. Here's how to ensure you make most of an upcoming fair and improve the interactions you have while attending.

Before Attending

Research the companies that will be there. Take time to learn about possible future employers, the positions they have open and write down any questions you may have for the recruiter. If there are specific positions you're interested in, think about how your personal and professional skills can be applied to the job.

Test your technology. Decide where you're going to attend the career fair and set up the space as early as possible. Test your internet connection and make sure your webcam and microphone are in working order. This will reduce the chances that something goes wrong the day of the fair.

Prepare your reference material. If possible, print your resume and gather all the questions you have for attending recruiters. Put them all in one place so you can reference them throughout the fair as you meet with different people. Having all your notes in one place, will help you feel prepared and ready to answer any questions that may be asked of you. Also, make sure you have your resume and list of references available electronically in case you need to upload them during the fair.

During the Fair

Attend in a professional environment. The benefits of virtual career fairs mean that you can attend anywhere with the proper equipment; but just because you can doesn't mean you should. Make sure you're in a comfortable, quiet and distraction-free environment.

Put yourself out there. Career fairs require you to take the first step in connecting with recruiters. And, meeting so many new people online at one time can feel overwhelming. Focus on reaching out to the employers you've previously researched and take it one interaction at a time.

After the Fair

Follow up with new connections. Once the fair is over, wait a few days and reconnect with the recruiters you met. Find them on LinkedIn, send a thank-you email, or check in on the status of an interview you completed. By reaching out a second time, you reinforce your introduction and show that you're serious about working for their organization. Virtual career fairs are a great way to see who's hiring in your area, or across the globe and meet new people. Use these tips to stand out in the crowd and land your next great opportunity.

Finding a Job

The resources on the Ticket to Work [Find a job](#) page may also help you as you start or continue your job search. The Find a Job webpage includes a chart that you can use to compare the features that various organizations provide, such as job boards, resume services and social networking opportunities. Some organizations also offer an employer directory and access to recruiters.

Mission Possible, as an Employment Network offers more comprehensive support and personalized assistance.

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2020-09-17-get-ready-preparing-for-and-attending-a-virtual-career-fair>

Call or email Us!

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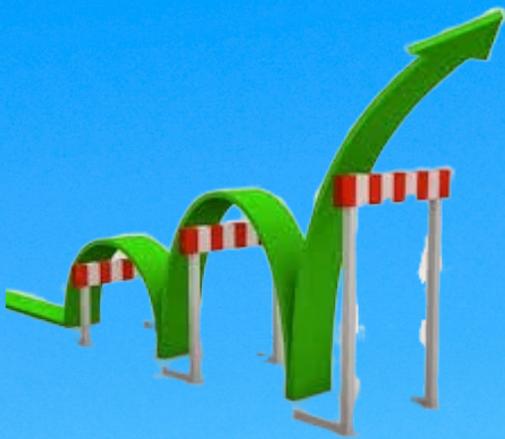
FAQ: "Why is Wage Reporting Important?"



Once you begin working it is very important to report your wages to both Mission Possible and Social Security.

We are not able to track your status and keep you current through the Ticket to Work program without copies of pay stubs. Whether you are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), it is very important that you keep Social Security informed about your work and how much money, or wages, you are making. It also important to note that if you are receiving both SSDI and SSI you need to report wages to each separately since they are two different benefit programs.

To prevent over payments from Social Security, you should regularly report your wages within 6 days of the end of the month. You can report your wages by mailing or bringing pay stubs to your local Social Security office. Find an office near you by visiting the Social Security office locator at <https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/wage-reporting/index.html>



2021 TTW Milestones

Trial Work Level (TWL) -- \$940 per month

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) -- \$1310 per month

Substantial Gainful Activity Blind -- \$2190 per month

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