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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



*"WORK IS THE RENT YOU PAY FOR THE ROOM YOU OCCUPY ON EARTH"
— QUEEN ELIZABETH II*

It's Almost Fall!

With the changing of the seasons from Summer to Fall there are a number of "events" that naturally come to mind. For those who are in school it is the beginning of a new school year with all the challenges and opportunities school offers. It's the beginning of a new football season, whether high school, college or professional. The weather is changing from warm/hot and sunny to milder temperatures--which may be a relief for many without air conditioning. The autumn leaves are a visual reminder of the passing of time and the change in the seasons.

We, at Mission Possible, hope you have a very productive autumn as you consider your options for your future and what the next year might bring for you. For those of you who are working and/or looking for work participating in the Ticket to Work Program, we'd like to bring to your attention several avenues for potential job searches that you may not have considered. Make no mistake, the job market is OPEN and employers are struggling to find employees to fill their open positions.

Some of these areas of opportunity are:

- Any one of the service industries such as Food Service (restaurants, schools, etc.) Many are offering wages above minimum wage to fill their open positions
- Custodial, janitorial, manufacturing positions
- Construction workers

Some areas of employment you may not have considered that are hiring now are:

- Motion Picture Projectionist (the one who makes sure the movie gets played for the theater audience)
- Wood Model Makers—Constructing full size and scale level wooden precision models of products. Also known as Craftsman or Sample Maker
- Restaurant Cooks— from fast food to gourmet restaurants
- Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers
- Solar Panel Installers (known as "Solar Photovoltaic Installers)—Assembling, setting up or maintaining solar panels. These positions usually require a high school diploma. This field of employment is expected to grow by 52% in the next 10 years!
- Make-up Artists (Theatrical and Performance as well as local television stations for their news-presenters).

Now is the time to take advantage of opportunities you may not have considered! We are here to help you make the most of this autumn as we work with you to achieve your goals!

Collaborative Connections For Your Employment Success!



Social Security disability beneficiaries have a team of service providers to help them be successful in entering or re-entering the workforce. Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) projects and Protection for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) organizations are two members of that team that can provide help and advice when it's needed.

What are WIPA and PABSS? & How Can They Help You?

WIPA projects are community-based organizations that are authorized by Social Security to provide free benefits counseling to disability beneficiaries to help them make informed choices about work and financial independence. Each WIPA project has certified Community Work Incentives Counselors (CWICs) who provide one-on-one counseling about benefits and the effects of work on those benefits.

The goal of the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program is to enable beneficiaries with disabilities to receive accurate information and use that information to make a successful transition to work.

Each certified CWIC counselor will:

- Provide in-depth counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits.
- Conduct outreach efforts to beneficiaries of SSI and SSDI (and their families) who are potentially eligible to participate in federal or state Work Incentives programs; and
- Work in cooperation with federal, state and private agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve SSI and SSDI beneficiaries with disabilities.

PABSS organizations are responsible for protecting the legal rights of Social Security disability beneficiaries who want to work. PABSS provides information, advocacy, legal representation and other services. If you think you may have been discriminated against because of your disability, a PABSS representative will be able to help you discuss your options.

Services offered by the PABSS include but are not limited to:

- Securing services from community agencies, including Employment Networks providing services under the Ticket to Work program.
- Helping people who are entitled to benefits understand Work Incentives and issues with their disability benefits.
- Protecting beneficiaries' rights regarding conditions of employment.
- Helping beneficiaries understand and protect their employment rights, responsibilities and reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws.
- Protecting access to housing assistance; and
- Obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment related services and supports.

Mission Possible has certified Community Work Incentives Counselors on staff to assist you.





Is a Career in the Construction Industry Right for You!



Social Security's Ticket to Work Website - Spotlight on a Non-Office Industry: Construction

As we've shared this month, many non-office jobs are in fast-growing industries. For example, think about jobs in "green" industries, such as solar panel installation and wind turbine maintenance. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the construction industry is not only increasing in job opportunities, it's projected to have one of the fastest wage and salary increases over the next decade. Could this be a field for you? Let's take a closer look at the construction industry and what it takes to pursue training and a career.

What are some construction roles?

Construction roles go far beyond hitting a nail with a hammer. Sure, that's part of the construction world, but there is so much more to it. Different roles in construction include carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heavy equipment operators, safety specialists and many more. There are also surveyors, foremen, supervisors and project managers as you move up the ladder in the industry. You'll find jobs at many skill levels and interests. Construction workers build new structures like commercial and residential buildings, bridges and roads, and repair or renovate existing ones. It takes many talented and skilled people in specialized roles to complete a construction project. If you've ever watched a television show about remodeling, you've seen that it takes everyone to create a finished project. The team includes interior designers to make color and furniture decisions, as well as a construction crew for areas such as drywall and electrical work.

What education is required for construction jobs?

Typically, you don't need a college degree to work in the construction industry. Some jobs may require a high school diploma. Many construction companies offer on-the-job training. It may be an informal training program while you gain hands-on experience. This gets you right into the industry, already contributing to projects.

Another popular option is to complete an apprenticeship. An apprenticeship is a little more formal in that you work while getting classroom education and experience. This is a paid situation that allows you to learn while earning a paycheck. An apprenticeship program can last anywhere from one to four years and allows you to get the technical skills you'll need on the jobsite. You can learn more about apprenticeship programs on our blog post [Apprenticeships: Learn While you Earn](#). Another way to start a construction career is to take courses towards certifications in the area of construction that appeals to you. Many of these are offered by trade associations and councils. Yet one more way is to attend a vocational school and choose a construction program specific to your interests. The Occupational Outlook Handbook is a helpful resource for learning more about training and education requirements.

Who are construction jobs right for?

People who choose to work in the construction industry often enjoy physical labor and the manual skills they use daily. They find it rewarding to see a project or building come together and know that they contributed to it. There's also a technical side of the work, like reading blueprints and paying close attention to measurements and math. Another trait necessary in construction is being observant. There are numerous safety hazards on a job site. You must be aware of your surroundings due to the heavy equipment, power tools and environmental variables.

Where do you look for a construction role?

You can find entry-level construction jobs on many online job boards. We have an extensive list of job boards on the [Find a Job](#) page of our website. If you are interested in becoming an apprentice as mentioned above, visit [Apprenticeship.gov](#) for available programs in construction. In addition to the job boards, be sure to tell family and friends that you're in the market for a new job in construction. They may have connections that can lead you in the right direction.

Finding Success with Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program

Social Security's Ticket Program can guide you on your employment journey to construction, or the industry you choose.

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2022-08-30-spotlight-on-a-non-office-industry-construction.html>





The Job That Got Away



At one point or another, almost everyone who is searching for their next job, has experienced a time when everything seemed to go well. Your resume seemed to match the experience and qualifications outlined in qualifications for the position. The interviews were positive, and you seemed to make a great case for why you would be the ideal candidate for the job. You came away from the interview feeling that you seriously had a chance to obtain this position. Only you don't. You don't get a call back or you get a call back and the answer is "We decided to go with another candidate."

There can be several reasons why you didn't get this job. One way to find out is to ask the hiring manager directly. Give them a call or an email and thank them for their time and the opportunity to interview with them. Thank them for letting you know that you did not get the position. This is not always the case. Many interviews come and go without any indication from the hiring manager or recruiter that you did not get the position. Ask them if they are willing to discuss any feedback or provide insight that could help you to do better in future interviews.

Remember to keep your tone positive and grateful for their time and any feedback they share with you. They don't have to take time out of their day to help you find your next job. And, if another position opens up in the future, a positive interaction at this point could help put you in the running for the next open position in the company for which you could be the perfect fit!

Tips for this conversation:

Don't try to change their mind or be defensive. Keep in mind you are looking for feedback on why you didn't get the job so you can present yourself more effectively in your next interview.

Stay Positive. Even when it turns out that you were not the best candidate for the job, it is still an opportunity to hone your interview skills and practice presenting yourself as a reliable and capable candidate that will be a benefit to the department and the company! Even if there is no feedback offered, you still got the experience of a practicing your interview skills that will help you in your future interview opportunities.

No matter the outcome of the interview, you are one step closer to obtaining your next position!

Tina and Becky at Mission Possible Employment Services are registered and approved employment counselors through the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program. They are always willing to work with you in honing your interview skills as well as any other questions regarding your job search as a part of your participation in the Ticket Program.

Source: TTW Blog 4/2021





Find Help with Educational Costs Using Benefits.gov



Furthering your education is a great way to learn new skills and advance your career path. However, paying for school or knowing where to get help with your expenses can be a challenge. Did you know that [Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov) can help you find information on over 1,000 government programs, check your eligibility, and describe the steps to apply for aid? Start your search on [Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov) with information on over 100 scholarships, fellowships, grants and loans. It's never too early to explore your options for paying for school. The U.S. government provides many sources of aid to help you along the way. Here are a few ways to find help with paying for school, specifically for students with disabilities and their families:

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)

The FAFSA is an application through the U.S. Department of Education and is used by most two and four-year colleges, universities, and career schools. Complete the application online and use it to apply for grants, loans and work-study opportunities that you may be eligible for. Each state and school have their own FAFSA deadlines that can be searched through the [Federal Student Aid website](#).

The FAFSA can connect you with government and private financial aid options, but it doesn't ask for some specifics that may help you get more aid. Other scholarship and grant opportunities may be based on personal information like disability status, hobbies or background. Once you complete the FAFSA, you can apply for academic and need-based scholarships from schools or other organizations, many of which require the FAFSA to even be considered. There are many scholarship opportunities for people based on location, background, disability and other factors. To find these opportunities, fill out the FAFSA and then check out the [CareerOneStop.org](https://www.careeronestop.org) Scholarship Finder.

[CareerOneStop.org Scholarship Finder](#)

The [CareerOneStop.org](https://www.careeronestop.org) Scholarship Finder, through the U.S. Department of Labor, provides a list of over 8,000 scholarships and financial aid opportunities. This free tool allows you to narrow down your search and provides details on how to apply for scholarships you may qualify for. There are search filters to view certain award types, locations, level of study, and there is a specific category for students with disabilities. You can also sort the list by application deadlines to find upcoming opportunities.

[TRIO Student Support Services](#)

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) program supports low-income students, first generation college students and students with disabilities enrolled in post-secondary education programs. Eligible students may receive personal and academic career counseling, career guidance, instruction, mentoring and tutoring. TRIO SSS does not provide financial aid directly, but they have resources to help eligible students find financial aid and help with other challenges of enrolling or re-enrolling in college or a technical or trade school.

There are many options available for finding financial aid to help with your educational expenses. Check out the [Benefits.gov](https://www.benefits.gov) [Benefit Finder](#), a free and easy-to-use tool that will check which benefits and financial aid you may be eligible to receive. Browse the [Healthcare and Medical Assistance](#) category of benefits to find more resources based on your needs. Start your education journey today!

Source: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/blog/2022-09-13-find-help-with-educational-costs-using-benefits-gov.html>



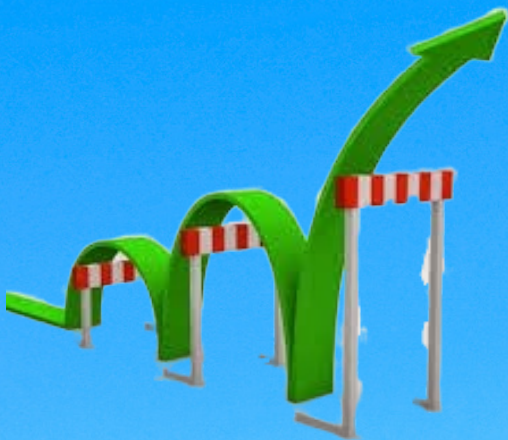


FAQ: "Why is Wage Reporting Important?"

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>



2022 TTW Milestones

Trial Work Level (TWL) -- \$970 per month

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) -- \$1,350 per month

Substantial Gainful Activity Blind -- \$2,260 per month

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