



Benefits Planning and Ticket to Work



Accommodations

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, please contact dvr.languageaccess@dshs.wa.gov.

If you require an accommodation or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of DSHS, please contact the DVR ADA Coordinator for an accommodation or modification at DVRADACoordinator@dshs.wa.gov.

At DVR, we envision a future where students, youth, and adults with disabilities can dream big and achieve their employment goals.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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DVRCSR@dshs.wa.gov

dshs.wa.gov/dvr

Providing DVR Services Since 1933

State and federal funds are used to deliver DVR services. The VR program receives approximately 78 percent in federal funds and 22 percent in state funds. For detailed information on the dollar amount of federal funds for the program, please visit <https://rsa.ed.gov/fiscal/grant-awards>.

If you receive other income, such as a paycheck, that income might change the benefits you get. Benefits Planning helps you understand what those changes will be. When you meet with a DVR Benefits Planner, you get clear information to make choices that are right for you.

Some of the benefits that can be affected: Social Security, Food Stamps, Housing, Medical (Medicaid or Medicare), and Waiver Services.



If I go to work, will my benefits be affected?

Working may affect your federal or state benefits. Usually, you will earn more money when you work. A DVR Benefits Planner will help you compare the differences between working and not working.

Also, there are programs that can help reduce or eliminate changes to your benefits known as work incentives. These programs are run by Social Security and Medicaid.

How do you get referred for Benefits Planning?

Once you are enrolled in DVR services, if you receive Social Security, you will be sent consent forms to sign and return. Your VRC can also refer you for Benefits Planning at any time.



When does Benefits Planning occur?

Benefits Planning can happen at several different points while your DVR case is open. These are some of the times when Benefits Planning can be helpful:

- After eligibility, but before the Individualize Plan for Employment.
- When you accept a paid job.
- When your wages and/or work level goals change.
- When additional information or clarification is needed.

What is the Ticket to Work program?

The Ticket to Work program is for people who get SSDI or SSI benefits. The program is not required. Ticket to Work can help people get jobs and earn money. The Social Security program runs the Ticket to Work program. If you get SSDI or SSI and you are between age 18 and age 64, you probably are eligible.

The program helps people find employment and earn enough money that they do not need SSDI or SSI. People in the program have more choices about how to receive services. Ticket to Work can make it easier for people to have a job.

Each person can get services either from a state VR program or from an Employment Network. ENs are private organizations and VRs are government agencies that provide Ticket to Work employment services to beneficiaries.

How do I use my Ticket from Ticket to Work?

Your participation in the Ticket to Work program is voluntary. When you sign an Individualized Plan for Employment with DVR, you are using your Ticket. You have to meet program goals to stay eligible for your Ticket.

The goal is to become self-sufficient. You are working with DVR to make it so that you do not need Social Security anymore. Therefore, your medical reviews will be suspended while you are in the program.

If you do not meet Ticket to Work goals, you may become ineligible for that program. You will still be eligible for Social Security and vocational rehabilitation services.

