

# Plan to Achieve Self-Support and Ticket to Work

## Working Together to Help You Return to Work

Social Security offers many incentives to help you return to work. This guide provides side-by-side information about the PASS work incentive and Ticket Program to clarify how each can support your efforts to return to work. You can find information about additional employment supports in the [Red Book](#).

	<b>Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)</b>	<b>Ticket to Work (Ticket) Program</b>
<b>What is it?</b>	A PASS is a written plan that lets you set aside your income, other than your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit, and other things you own for a specified time to help you reach your work goal. A PASS describes the steps you will take and the items and services you will need to reach your work goal.	The Ticket Program is free and voluntary. It connects you with free employment services to help you decide if working is right for you, prepare for work, find a job or maintain success while you are working.
<b>What is the purpose?</b>	A PASS can help you establish or maintain SSI eligibility and can increase your SSI payment while you save money to pay for items and/or services specifically stated in your PASS plan. You can use those resources and income toward achieving a work goal and becoming financially independent.	The ultimate goal of the Ticket Program is to assist people receiving Social Security disability benefits in reducing their reliance on disability benefits. The Ticket Program also seeks to promote increased self-sufficiency and greater independence for people receiving Social Security disability benefits through work.
<b>Who can participate?</b>	You may be a good candidate for a PASS if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are 15 years of age or older,</li> <li>• Receive SSI disability benefits or can become eligible for disability benefits through SSI, and</li> <li>• Have income or resources to set aside.</li> </ul>	You are eligible to participate in the Ticket Program if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are ages 18 through 64, and</li> <li>• Receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or SSI benefits because of your disability</li> </ul>
<b>Can I have a PASS and Ticket at the same time?</b>	Yes. Provide a copy of your Individual Work Plan (IWP) plan to your PASS Cadre. You should only pursue one employment goal at a time.	Yes. By utilizing a PASS and participating in the Ticket Program at the same time, you maximize the help you receive toward achieving your employment goal.

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<b>How does it work?</b>	<p>There are resource and income limits that affect eligibility for SSI. However, if you have an approved PASS, you can set aside income and resources that Social Security would typically count against those limitations while you continue to receive cash payments for basic living needs.</p> <p>The money that you set aside must be used to pay for expenses associated with reaching your employment goal. Some common expenses include education, training and licensing, textbooks, childcare, employment services, business start-up equipment and supplies and transportation.</p> <p>While participating, you must follow the steps in your plan, use dedicated PASS funds for approved expenses, keep your receipts, track your progress and report changes that could affect your plan.</p>	<p>If you choose to participate, you can receive services such as career counseling, vocational rehabilitation (VR), job placement and training from authorized Ticket Program service providers that you choose, such as Employment Networks (EN) or your State VR agency.</p> <p>You and your service provider will collaboratively develop a plan called an IWP to help you reach your work goals. Your employment team will help you make progress toward those goals to help you reach a more financially independent future.</p> <p>While participating, you must follow through on the actions in your IWP and report your earnings to Social Security and to your EN or VR service provider. Social Security will not initiate a review of your medical condition while you are making timely progress toward your goal.</p>
<b>How do I apply?</b>	<p>Submit your plan in writing, preferably on form <a href="#">SSA-545-BK</a> to your local Social Security office or to your <a href="#">PASS Cadre</a>.</p> <p>If your employment goal is self-employment, your PASS must include a detailed business plan.</p>	<p>Contact Ticket To Work Help Line at <b>1-866-968-7842</b> or <b>1-866-833-2967</b> (TTY) Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST.</p>
<b>How do earnings affect my benefits while participating?</b>	<p>Regular wage counting rules apply for both SSDI and SSI benefits. You may set aside the countable portion of your wages under the PASS in order to cover the cost of approved PASS expenses.</p>	<p>Regular wage counting rules apply for both SSDI and SSI benefits. Report your wages to your EN and Social Security.</p>

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<b>How do I get help?</b>	<p>Anyone may help you to write a PASS plan, including a vocational counselor, social worker, Benefits Counselor or specialist and Social Security staff.</p> <p>WIPA projects provide free benefits counseling to youth, at least age 14, and adults and may assist you to prepare a PASS plan.</p>	<p>The Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) projects provide free benefits counseling to youth, at least age 14, and adults. You can work with a VR agency or an EN that has a Benefits Counselor on staff to learn more about Work Incentives.</p> <p>Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) organizations may also assist you or will refer you to a Benefits Counselor for assistance.</p> <p>You can <a href="#">find help</a> on the Choose Work website.</p>
<b>Where can I find more information?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Working While Disabled – A Guide to Plans for Achieving Self-Support</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Location of PASS Cadres</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SSI Wage Reporting</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Choose Work Website</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Working While Disabled - How We Can Help</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Your Ticket to Work</a></li> </ul>

You can reach a Social Security PASS Specialist by calling the toll-free number:  
**1-800-772-1213**, weekdays between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### **Website Locations**

The following websites are included as hyperlinks in the table above. Please reference these URLs when reviewing this document in a non-digital format.

SSA-545-BK: [www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-545.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-545.pdf)

PASS Cadre: [www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/passcadre.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/passcadre.htm)

Working While Disabled – A Guide to Plans for Achieving Self-Support: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11017.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11017.pdf)

SSI Wage Reporting: [www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/wage-reporting.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/wage-reporting.html)

Choose Work Website: <http://choosework.ssa.gov>

Working While Disabled – How We Can Help: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf)

Your Ticket to Work: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10061.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10061.pdf)