

**NC DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

Section:	T
Title:	Ticket to Work/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Protocol
Current Effective Date:	06/08
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Combined: Ticket to Work (Policy) and Ticket to Work-Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Protocol (Procedures)

Ticket to Work

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) was signed into law on December 17, 1999, as a nationwide initiative designed to broaden recipient choice in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services while removing barriers that previously influenced people's choices between healthcare and work. The voluntary program was assigned to the authority of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and administered nationally by Maximus, the contracted program administrator. North Carolina enacted the Ticket program in 2003.

Under Ticket, all Title II (Social Security Disability Income-SSDI) beneficiaries and Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income-SSI) recipients between age 18 and 65 will receive a "Ticket" (a ceremonial document) from the SSA (with the exception of those recipients under a continuing medical review). Accompanying materials will explain the purpose of Ticket and will identify options available to the recipient that could enable him/her to go to work.

If the recipient does not want to go to work, he/she does nothing.

Should the recipient want to go to work, those accompanying materials will explain various service options, Employment Network (EN), and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services that can assist in achieving vocational goals. The recipient then has the option of assigning the Ticket to one of multiple ENs operating in the state, choose to work with VR, or choose a combination of the two. When the recipient goes to work, either the assigned EN or VR will do an earnings review. If the recipient has earned income that equals or exceeds that identified by SSA as "Substantial Gainful Activity" (SGA), the entity has the opportunity to request payment from SSA for expenses incurred or a portion thereof.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Protocol

The Agency's Ticket Coordinator will edit a list of new Ticket-eligible referrals monthly and forward to the manager of each office. That manager will distribute the information to the appropriate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for individual follow-up concerning the work interests of the referrals.

Should an Employment Network (EN) contact the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to discuss the possibility of entering a VR-EN Agreement where both the EN and VR work with the referral and accordingly, share SSA cost reimbursement, if any, they should be referred to the Agency's Ticket Coordinator.