

### Introduction to Ticket to Work

Let's face it! VR Customers pursuing self-employment can likely use all the help they can get! You've provided a great deal of support to get your customer started in business, which may have included the services of a Certified Business Technical Assistance Consultant (CBTAC). And you want to see them succeed long-term! But once you close their case, are extended supports available? For many, the answer is "no." Ticket to Work may just be the "ticket" to help!

### Benefits to Ticket Holders:

1. In the case of self-employment, Ticket to Work may provide extended supports critical to long-term business success. It could provide funding for a CBTAC, or other Employment Provider, to support extended services for 3 years or longer.
2. TTW provides Ticket Holders a choice in providers. They could potentially continue to work with the CBTAC that helped them develop their business or assign the Ticket to another provider for extended support. They get to choose!
3. Ticket Holders who re-assign their Ticket within 90 days of VR case closure and who continue to make "timely progress" will have medical reviews postponed by Social Security. That means that their benefits won't be terminated in the midst of getting their business off the ground should medical improvement occur!
4. Ticket Holders assigning their tickets to a Consumer-Directed Services Employment Network, could get direct reimbursement for impairment related work expenses they may be paying for out of pocket!

### Four Reasons to use Ticket to Work for Self-Employment:

1. Extended Support!
2. Choice of Provider!
3. Postponement of Medical Reviews!
4. Potential to cover Impairment Related Work Expenses.

### How TTW Works:

Even prior to the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvements Act of 1999, VR agencies have been able to receive "**Cost Reimbursement**" from Social Security for helping beneficiaries go back to work. Reimbursement can be requested when beneficiaries earn over SGA for nine continuous months. The Cost Reimbursement program, initiated in 1981, was authorized to: 1) make VR services more accessible to

Social Security beneficiaries, and 2) generate savings to both the Social Security Trust Fund and the General Revenue Fund. The Ticket to Work program expanded the number and types of agencies that could receive payments for helping beneficiaries reach self-sufficiency. These other agencies are called “**Employment Networks**” or “**ENs**”.

VR agencies nationally now have the option of using Cash Reimbursement or collecting TTW payments. VR in Texas has opted to continue payments under the Cost Reimbursement system. But through a program called “**Partnership Plus**,” VR can claim the Cost Reimbursement and, once the case is closed, refer the beneficiary to an Employment Network for Extended Supports.

**Partnership Plus** works like this:

Phase 1	Phase 2	Outcome
<p>If the beneficiary’s earnings exceed SGA (\$1310 disabled or \$2190 blind in 2021) for 9 Consecutive months, VR can request Cost Reimbursement. Cost reimbursement includes reasonable and necessary administrative, counseling and job placement costs incurred. Payments are calculated either based on a formula or actual costs.</p>	<p>Employment Networks who support Ticket Holders to continue to work and earn over SGA (\$1310 in 2021 or \$2190 if blind) will continue to receive monthly payments of \$453/month (SSDI) or \$258/month (SSI). In Phase 2, the beneficiary can still receive Social Security benefits. EN’s can continue collecting Phase 2 payments for up to 11 months (SSDI beneficiaries) or 18 months (SSI Beneficiaries).</p> <p><b>Total Phase 2 Payments:</b>            \$ 4,644 (SSI beneficiaries)            \$ 4,983 (SSDI beneficiaries)</p>	<p>Employment Networks who support Ticket Holders to continue to work over SGA (\$1310 or \$2190 if blind in 2021) <b>AND</b> eliminate cash benefits will continue to receive cash payments of \$453 (2021) for up to 36 months (SSDI recipients) or monthly payments of \$258/month for 60 months (SSI recipients).</p> <p><b>Total Outcome Payments:</b>            \$ 15,480 (SSI Beneficiaries)            \$ 16,308 (SSDI Beneficiaries)</p>

\*Based on Milestone-Outcome Payment Method

Note – The Phase 2 and Outcome Payments are **not available** to VR agencies opting for Cost Reimbursement. By supporting customers to re-assign their Tickets for extended support you increase their potential for success and reduce the likelihood of that customer returning to VR for additional support.

CBTAC’s supporting self-employed individuals could become Employment Networks or they might partner with an “Administrative EN”. Administrative ENs help other agencies to access the funding provided through Ticket to Work by providing the administrative

functions. The Administrative EN keeps a portion of the funding but returns most of the Ticket payments to the agency providing services.

### Win, Win, Win!

Everyone wins! The self-employed VR Customer receives upfront help to get their business going, VR receives the Cost Reimbursement from SSA, and another EN receives funding to provide extended support to help the business owner through those first critical years of business!