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Collecting SSI or SSDI and Ready to Go Back to Work, 2011

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Services

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About Ticket to Work

The Social Security Administration understands that choosing to work is a big decision for disability beneficiaries. The **Ticket to Work Program** helps provide a safety net for people who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits as they explore work that is right for them.

Beneficiaries work with employment service providers, known as Employment Networks (ENs), to achieve individual work goals.

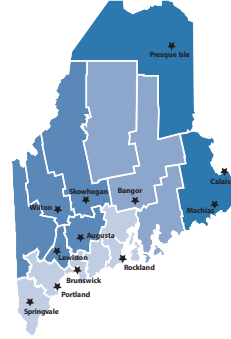
If you are eligible and want to get started, the Maine CareerCenter system is now an EN with liaisons who are ready to work with you.



Tickets Accepted Here

Maine CareerCenters that are currently accepting Tickets:

- Bangor
- Presque Isle
- Machias



[for individuals in Aroostook, Washington, Piscataquis, Penobscot and Hancock Counties]

Ticket to Work Liaisons

Bangor CareerCenter – Mike Johnson
207.561.4058 or 1.888.828.0568
Michael.J.Johnson@maine.gov
TTY: 1.800.498.6711

Presque Isle CareerCenter – Peter Lento
207.760.6318 or 1.800.635.0357
Peter.Lento@maine.gov
TTY: 1.888.697.2877

Machias CareerCenter – Donald Rice
207.454.7551 or 1.800.292.8929
Donald.K.Rice@maine.gov
TTY: 1.800.381.9932

CareerCenter

www.mainecareercenter.com



Collecting SSI or SSDI and ready to go back to work?

Your CareerCenter liaison can help you use the Ticket to Work Program



Helping beneficiaries to take the next step toward work

www.mainecareercenter.com

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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How the Program Works

The Ticket to Work program is voluntary. You get assistance, job referrals and other services you need to work at no charge. You can give your “Ticket” to an approved EN provider of your choice. You and the provider work together to make a work plan. The plan states exactly what services the provider will furnish.

While you are using your Ticket to obtain employment and you are making progress toward your work goal, Social Security will not conduct any Continuing Disability Reviews on your case.

Who is eligible?

Adults ages 18 through 64, who receive cash benefits from Social Security based on disability under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and/or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program are eligible Ticket holders.



Who should use their Ticket?

If you are ready to go back to work full or part-time and want to become self-sufficient through employment, you should assign your Ticket.

Will I lose my cash benefits?

The program provides a safety net while you are working toward your employment goals. Once you are working and have substantial earnings, your benefits may stop. Payments may be reduced as earnings increase. Rules differ for SSI and SSDI. Benefits counseling is available to help you plan for these changes and learn about work incentives.

What is an EN?

Employment Networks (ENs) are organizations and agencies that enter into an agreement with the Social Security Administration to provide employment services and other types of support services to people receiving SSI or SSDI.

You must choose an EN and develop an **Individual Work Plan (IWP)** that identifies, among other things, your employment goal and outlines the services and supports the EN will provide to assist you in achieving that goal.

The Maine Department of Labor’s CareerCenter system is now an approved Employment Network.

The following Maine CareerCenters are currently accepting Tickets:

- **Bangor** – Piscataquis, Penobscot and Hancock Counties
- **Presque Isle** – Aroostook County
- **Machias** – Washington County

To understand the effects of work on your benefits, your CareerCenter Ticket to Work liaison will connect you with a Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC) prior to entering into an agreement with an EN.

