



## **Frequently Asked Questions by Transition Professional about Beneficiaries in Transition**

- **If a beneficiary receives a Ticket and is currently participating in a work program through the school, does that recipient have to assign the Ticket to the work program/provider that he/she is currently involved with?**

No. The Ticket-holder can assign the Ticket to any provider who is an approved EN. This does not have to be the provider that is currently providing services. In fact, the Ticket may only be assigned to approved ENs. When and where to assign the Ticket is the beneficiary's choice solely. Once assigned, there are timely progress requirements. During months 1-24 of assignment, the beneficiary must actively participate in a plan. Between months 25-36, the beneficiary must work a minimum of 3 months over Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). If the entity that the beneficiary is currently working with desires to become an EN so the Ticket can be assigned, then the Program Manager, MAXIMUS, can help to make that happen.

- **Can a school qualify to be an Employment Network (EN)?**

Yes. Any program, service provider, and/or employer that has provided services for or are currently providing services for persons with disabilities can apply to become an approved EN.

- **If the beneficiary is to remain in school until age 21, can he/she wait until age 21 to use/assign the Ticket?**

Yes. The Ticket-holder does not have to assign the Ticket immediately. The one advantage to having the Ticket assigned is protection from Medical Continuing Disability Review (CDR) for the beneficiary.

- **If the beneficiary assigns the Ticket to an EN, can he/she still utilize the income incentives such as Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE), Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE), and Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS)?**

Yes. The Ticket holder can utilize all work incentives that apply. The Ticket Program overlaps all other work incentives and does not replace any of them.

- **If the beneficiary is receiving services from VR through a partnership with the school, upon the receipt of the Ticket, is that Ticket recipient obligated to assign that ticket to VR?**

The Ticket to Work Program was designed to ensure choice in service providers for beneficiaries. If the beneficiary has been working with their state VR agency prior to

receiving their Ticket, and they wish to continue that relationship by assigning the Ticket to the state VR agency, they will be asked to sign a form called the SSA – 1365 form. The beneficiary *must* sign this form in order for the Ticket to be considered assigned to that agency. In this instance, beneficiaries also have the option of choosing to work with an EN and assigning their Ticket to the EN instead of continuing to work with the state VR agency. If the beneficiary receives their Ticket and then begins to work with their state VR agency by signing an IPE, the beneficiary signature is *not* required on the SSA-1365 in order for the Ticket to be considered assigned to the state VR agency. Beneficiaries need to be aware of these subtle differences in status regarding Ticket assignments to state VR agencies. In summary, the Ticket to Work Program is about choice and is voluntary. Beneficiaries may assign, unassign, and reassign Tickets to ENs and state VR agencies at their discretion.

- ❑ **If the beneficiary goes on to a post-secondary educational program after high school, can that post-secondary institution be assigned the Ticket?**

Yes, if that post-secondary institution is an approved EN.

- ❑ **Can the beneficiary assign the Ticket to an EN in a state that he/she does not reside in?**

Yes, the Ticket-holder does not have to reside in the state the approved EN is in to assign the Ticket to that EN. The approved EN however, may have a policy of serving only residents of a certain region or area. The EN must have indicated that state of residence as one of the areas they cover.

- ❑ **If a beneficiary is being trained to work in a family business (i.e.; farm, retail business), can the beneficiary assign the Ticket to the family business?**

Yes, if this business/employer has met all the criteria to be an approved EN.

- ❑ If the beneficiary is working while in school, and decides to stay with that employer even after graduation, can the employer be assigned the Ticket?

**Yes, if that employer has met all the criteria to be an approved EN.**

- ❑ **If the beneficiary assigns the Ticket to an EN while in school, but after leaving school, the beneficiary wants to embark on a different type of training/employment, can the beneficiary un-assign the Ticket and assign it to another EN?**

Yes, the beneficiary can un-assign the Ticket anytime and reassign the Ticket to another EN. Both ENs may be entitled to splitting the EN payments, therefore, the beneficiary should be aware that some ENs may be leery of accepting a Ticket that may put them in a situation of splitting payment.

- ❑ **If the beneficiary is receiving services from more than one provider, (i.e. job coaching from one provider and training from another), which provider should be assigned the Ticket?**

The beneficiary may want to assign the Ticket to the provider that he/she is receiving the most services from. The beneficiary should speak with each provider and also see if there is

a cooperative agreement between the providers. If there is a partnership agreement involved, then the providers can be helpful in making that decision.

□ **If the beneficiary needs transportation to an EN, who provides that transportation?**

The beneficiary should check to see if the approved EN provides transportation before he/she assigns the Ticket. If the chosen EN does not provide transportation, then the beneficiary should look for a transportation provider that is an approved EN. The transportation provider and the approved EN may want to serve this beneficiary under a partnership agreement.