

Overview

Ticket to Work Proposed Regulations

In order to improve the Ticket to Work Program, Social Security has proposed the following changes to the regulations:

1. Extending eligibility for the ticket to a new group: MIEs (beneficiaries for whom Medical Improvement is Expected) who have not yet had their first continuing disability review.
2. Structuring Employment Network (EN) payments so that:
 - Providers would earn milestone payments earlier in the process, allowing providers to offer more up-front services to beneficiaries.
 - Providers would receive milestone payments for lower levels of beneficiary earnings, which recognize that some beneficiaries may work for lower wages and/or part time before they become self-supporting.
 - Social Security will use gross wages to pay Milestone payments for a much longer period of time under the new rules. This will allow beneficiaries to use work incentives without a loss of Ticket payments to the EN. Gross wages will be used to make payments for 20 months for SSDI and 27 months for SSI as opposed to only 12 months under the current rules.
3. Encouraging a VR-EN partnership: No longer requiring Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies to have tickets assigned in order to qualify for cost reimbursement. Beneficiaries would be able to work with a VR agency to provide education and training services and then assign their ticket to an EN for continuing employment supports. Both the VR agency and the EN can be paid by Social Security.

Social Security believes that these proposed revisions of the regulations will:

- encourage more organizations to become ENs
- increase partnering between organizations
- increase services offered to beneficiaries
- improve coordination of services to beneficiaries, and
- increase choices for beneficiaries.



Overview

Proposed New Ticket EN Milestone-Outcome Payment

2008 figures

Payment Type	Beneficiary earnings	SSDI amount of payment	SSI amount of payment
Phase 1 (120% of SSDI PCB)			
Milestone 1	\$335 for two weeks work	\$1,177	\$1,177
Milestone 2	\$670/mo. x 3 months work (cumulative)	\$1,177	\$1,177
Milestone 3	\$670/mo. x 6 months work (cumulative)	\$1,177	\$1,177
Milestone 4	\$670/mo. x 9 months work (cumulative)	\$1,177	\$1,177
Total Phase 1 Milestones		\$4,708	\$4,708
Phase 2 (36% of PCB)			
SSDI Milestone Months 1-11	Gross Earnings > SGA (\$940/\$1,570)*	\$353 x 11 = \$3,883	
SSI Milestone Months 1-18			\$203 x 18 = \$3,654
Total Phase 1+2 Milestones		\$8,591	\$8,362
Monthly Outcome Payments (36% of PCB)			
SSDI = 1-36	Earnings > SGA (\$940/\$1,570)* / month	\$353 x 36 = \$12,708	
SSI = 1-60	and a federal cash benefit = \$0		\$203 x 60 = \$12,180
Total Milestone and Outcome Payments		\$21,299	\$20,542

* The monthly SGA amount for blind individuals for 2008 is \$1,570.
For non-blind individuals, the monthly SGA amount for 2008 is \$940.