



A Ticket to Work Employment Network *Supporting Workers with Disabilities in Maintaining Long-Term Employment*

Updated December 17, 2010

ERI PLUS *America* is an Employment Network under the Ticket to Work Program funded by the Social Security Administration that supports workers with disabilities to maintain employment.

ERI PLUS *America* offers payments to ticket holders who are already working:

- **TicketShare:** A direct cash payment to ticket holders (up to 75% of the monthly ticket payment or potentially \$275+ per payment) to support work related expenses such as car payments, childcare, bus-fare, clothing, technology, etc.

How we are unique:

We want to meet the needs of ticket holders already working as well as advance our mission of increasing community employment opportunities of all people with disabilities. Income generated through our Ticket to Work Program is used to fund services that enhance community employment opportunities.

What is the Ticket to Work Program?

Ticket to Work is a program that offers Social Security Administration (SSA) disability beneficiaries choices in selecting employment services. If you receive SSDI or SSI benefits and would like to increase your earnings through work, this program can help you obtain the individualized support and services that you need to reach your goals.

More frequently asked questions on the other side of this page!

WHO IS ERI PLUS AMERICA FOR?

To be eligible for the ERI PLUS *America* program, you must be:

- employed or actively looking for work on your own;
- eligible for SSDI or SSI payments;
- and able to meet earning requirements.

GETTING STARTED:

For more information about the ERI PLUS Ticket to Work Program:

Contact the ERI Ticket Coordinator

- phone: 608-246-3444 x 225
- toll-free: 1-800-710-9326
- email: ticket@eri-wi.org
- web: www.eri-wi.org/ticket.htm

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Frequently Asked Questions

Can anyone assign their Ticket to ERI PLUS?

No. In order to be eligible for the ERI PLUS *America* program, you must be: employed or actively looking for work on your own; eligible for SSDI or SSI payments (even if you currently do not receive a payment); able to earn above SGA (\$1000 in 2011).

What does the Ticket look like?

The ticket is red, white, and blue, and is 6 by 9 inches in size. Your name, a ticket number, and a claim number are printed on the ticket. Please know that you do not need to have a paper ticket in your possession to be eligible for services. If you receive SSI and/or SSDI payments, you may be eligible. We can help you verify your eligibility status.

Will I receive 75% of every Ticket payment?

You will receive up to 75% of every ticket payment (potentially \$275+ per ticket payment) beginning with the month in which you report eligible earnings.

Will you really pay me to keep my job?

Yes. You may contact the Social Security Administration Ticket to Work program at 866-968-7842 to verify that ERI PLUS *America* is an approved Employment Network (EN). The federal Ticket to Work program is designed to provide cash payments to any EN that supports a beneficiary in earning above SGA. Most Employment Networks keep 100% of their Ticket payments to cover expenses associated with job placement and counseling. We guarantee that as long as your work earnings garner Ticket payments for ERI PLUS *America*, we will pay you a percentage of those payments.

What is Maximus?

Maximus is the organization with whom the Social Security Administration has contracted to manage the Ticket to Work program. Maximus' website is www.yourtickettowork.com and their toll-free phone number is 866-949-3687.

Why should I assign my Ticket to ERI PLUS instead of national ENs in other states?

ERI PLUS *America* is a Wisconsin-based EN with a mission to advance employment opportunities for people with disabilities. When you call us, you'll find that we are more than just an answering machine or email address; we provide each client with personal support. Revenues from our Ticket to Work program are used to support employment and benefits counseling programs in local communities.

Are my payments tax-free?

Your payments are tax-free because they are considered to be cash that you receive for the purpose of rehabilitation. You do not need to claim them as income on your income taxes. You can read more about this policy in IRS Publication 535 (Website: www.irs.gov/publications/p525/ar02.html).

Are my payments counted as income for other benefits I receive?

Your payments are considered "unearned income" for benefits such as housing assistance, state Medicaid programs, etc. If you have questions about how work and "unearned income" will affect your benefits, contact the MAXIMUS Beneficiary Call Center toll-free number: 866-968-7842 Option 5. You can always choose to opt out of receiving payments.

How long will my Ticket last?

It's different for every person. When you sign up to participate in our Ticket program, we will help you determine how many months remain on your Ticket. You may also find out by contacting Maximus at 866-949-3687. Depending on your situation, ticket payments can last a few months to over 4 years -- potential ticket payments of \$15,000+ if you continue working.