Ticket to Work

Timely Progress Reviews Fact Sheet

# What are they?

When consumers use the Ticket to Work (TTW) program, Social Security Administration (SSA) encourages them to make “timely progress towards employment.” Timely progress is measured by SSA’s annual Timely Progress Reviews (TPRs).

# How do they work?

When a consumer’s ticket is In-Use with a State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agency or assigned to an Employment Network (EN), SSA will perform a TPR every year to determine if the individual is meeting the Timely Progress benchmarks determined by SSA. The benchmarks are different every year with increasing education and employment milestones for every 12 month period.

TPRs will be sent directly to consumers to be completed and returned to SSA.

# Why are they important?

When consumers use their ticket and are meeting the TPR benchmarks, they are excused from medical Continuing Disability Reviews (medical CDRs).

If a consumer does not meet SSA’s Timely Progress benchmarks, there is no direct impact on their benefits. The only consequence is that they will no longer be excused from medical CDRs. This will not *trigger* a medical CDR, but they will receive one whenever they are typically scheduled (every 1, 3, 5 or more years).

# VRSD Team’s Role

## Counselor

### At Intake:

* Use the [TTW Protocol for DOR Staff](TTW%20Protocol%20for%20DOR%20Staff.docx) for guidance on how to verify a consumer’s current ticket status.
* Provide the consumer with the [DOR’s Beneficiary Fact Sheet on the TTW Program](../Fact%20Sheets/TTW%20Fact%20Sheets/TTW%20Beneficiary%20Fact%20Sheet.docx).

### Prior to IPE Development and Approval:

* When developing the IPE, ensure the consumer understands TPRs and that his/her ticket will be placed In-Use with DOR upon IPE approval.
* Ensure consumer understands the TTW language on the IPE above the signature line.

## Counselor and/or Work Incentives Planner (if applicable)

### During the Case

* Verify ticket is placed In-Use with DOR once IPE is approved
* Assist consumer to complete TPR paperwork if needed

### At Case Closure

* Refer consumer to [www.choosework.net](http://www.choosework.net) for a directory of ENs available to provide ongoing support and to continue medical CDR protection (if applicable)
  + If consumer was referred to DOR by an EN, use the [DR343B](../Forms/DR0343%20B%20(Referral%20to%20Employment%20Network).docx) to refer the consumer back to the same EN

# Timely Progress Benchmarks

The Timely Progress benchmarks below are determined by SSA and apply to all SSI/SSDI consumers who are using their ticket with a State VR Agency or EN.

## During Each 12-month Progress Review Period:

### 1st-12 months (after 12 months of ticket use)

* Complete 3 months of work at Trial Work Level (TWL), OR
* Complete a GED or high school diploma, OR
* Complete 60% of a full-time course load for an academic year in a college or technical/trade/vocational training program, OR
* Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

### 2nd -12 months (13-24 months of ticket use)

* Complete 6 months of work at Trial Work Level (TWL), OR
* Complete 75% of a full-time course load for an academic year in a college or technical/trade/vocational training program, OR
* Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

### 3rd-12 months (25-36 months of ticket use)

* Complete 9 months or work at Substantial Gainful Activity, OR
* Complete an additional full-time academic year of study, OR
* Complete a 2-year or 4-year college program, OR
* Complete a 2-year technical/trade/vocational training program, OR
* Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

### 4th-12 months (37-48 months of ticket use)

* Complete 9 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity, OR
* Complete an additional academic year of full-time study, OR
* Complete a combination of this work and education requirement

### 5th-12 months (49-60 months of ticket use)

* Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity
  + (SGA) level with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked, OR
* Complete an additional academic year of full-time study, OR
* Complete a 4-year degree program

### 6th-12 months (61-72 months of ticket use)

* Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level with no SSDI and/ or SSI cash benefits in months worked, OR
* Complete a 4-year degree program

7th-12 months (73-84 months of ticket use)

* Complete 6 months of work at Substantial Gainful Activity
  + (SGA) level with no SSDI and/or SSI cash benefits in months worked \*

\*The guidelines for any subsequent 12-month Progress Review are the same as for the 7th 12-month Progress Review.