SSA’s Employment Support Programs
ALL Employment Network Call

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Can our beneficiaries return to work?

What are our employment support programs?

What outcomes have we observed?

Where are we headed?
Can our DI beneficiaries return to work?

Some have earnings, but definition of disability is strict

- $0: 85%
- $1-15,000: 13%
- > $15,000: 2%
What are our employment support programs?

- Ticket to Work
- State Vocational Rehabilitation
- Work Incentive and Planning Assistance (WIPA)
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)
What outcomes have we observed?

- **Ticket to Work (2006 cohort)**
  - 82% had **some earnings**
  - 25% had at least **one month of non-payment**
  - $8M paid to ENs; $24M in benefits foregone for work

- **State Vocational Rehabilitation (2006 cohort)**
  - 77% had **some earnings**
  - 16% had at least **one month of non-payment**
  - $52M paid to VR; $102M in benefits foregone for work
Beyond outcomes: Why else do we have these programs?

• Many in the disability and policymaking communities consider the opportunity to work a civil right.
  o The government *should* offer employment support programs

• Many believe people with disabilities *should* have choices.
Where are we headed? Additional focus on youth

- Basic facts about children on SSI:
  - 32 percent live in poverty
  - 40 percent are African American
  - In households headed by a single mother
  - SSI is not a guaranteed source of income for life

- SSI young adult outcomes need improvement
  - Small percentage in college (16 percent)
  - Small percentage with any earnings (11 percent)

- Employment support services can work
  - Youth Transition Demonstration

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Where are we headed? 503 Regulations

• Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act:
  o Department of Labor rules require federal contractors to take affirmative action to recruit, employ, and promote those with disabilities

• Interagency effort to promote awareness of 503 regulations
Where are we headed? Practical improvements

• Improve outreach / marketing to beneficiaries
  o Will restart Ticket mailings
  o Looking at the auto-dial marketing issue

• NENA/SSA operational workgroup:
  o Ticket cadre proposal, BPQYs, Earnings Reports, Expedited Reinstatement, and other issues

• Training of SSA employees
Conclusion: Some Bigger Issues to Ponder

- Will stakeholders want legislative or regulatory changes to SSA’s employment support programs?
- Will the proposals be fundamental or incremental?
- What role for early intervention?