



Disability Services



Disability Services

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Program Overview

CareerSource Pinellas' Disability Program:

assists individuals whom receive Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits by offering resources for improving employability skills and increasing career opportunities for those with medically-documented disabilities



Titles and Terms

Disability

the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment(s) which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

Medically Determinable Disability

an impairment that results from anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities that can be shown by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostics techniques. Medical evidence must establish the physical or mental impairment.

A statement about the individual's symptoms is not enough to determine a medically determinable disability.

Titles and Terms

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

gives cash assistance to people with limited income and resources whom are age 65 or older, blind or disabled. Children with disabilities are eligible for SSI, too.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

provides benefits to disabled or blind persons whom are “insured” by workers’ contributions to the Social Security trust fund. These contributions are based upon a person’s earnings as required by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA). Dependents may also be eligible for benefits from an eligible worker’s earnings record.

Titles and Terms

Ticket to Work program

The ultimate goal of the program is to assist beneficiaries whom receive SSA reduce their reliance on those benefits and to promote increased self-sufficiency and greater independence through the utilization of available employment services.

- beneficiaries may choose to assign their ticket to an Employment Network (EN) (i.e. CareerSource Pinellas) to obtain employment and/or other support services necessary to achieve a work goal



Titles and Terms

Disability Program Navigator

Assists:

- with providing information to those already receiving SSI or SSDI regarding work incentives offered by the SSA (i.e. Ticket to Work program)
- With assessing ticket eligibility and career readiness
- as a liaison between ticket holders and SSA
- With accessing services, activities and programs offered at the centers

Assistive Equipment

CareerSource Pinellas provides tools and information to ensure that our centers are completely accessible to people with disabilities in terms of both physical and service delivery.

- In each center, assistive equipment is located at designated and identified work stations.
- Staff will be trained on the use of assistive equipment.
- Instructions for each piece of assistive equipment is also located in the designated work stations.

Assistive Equipment

Available Equipment:

- Scanning and Reading Appliance (SARA)
- Job Access with Speech (JAWS 15)
- Microsoft Windows Magnifier
- MAGic 18
- wheelchair-accessible work station
- 19"-22" computer screen
- Braille keyboard
- 711 Telecommunications Relay Service

Americans with Disabilities Act

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life -- to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin – and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -- the ADA is an "equal opportunity" law for people with disabilities.
- To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability, which is defined by the ADA as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered.

ADA and CareerSource Pinellas

All customers will be served equally.

- If an individual has a noticeable disability, but has not self-identified, staff will ask if they need assistance (as opposed to accommodation).
- If an individual self-identifies as being disabled, staff will ask how they may accommodate them.
- When working with customers with disabilities, staff discusses disability only as it pertains to the customer's need to access assistive equipment and resources for increasing employability. Therefore, confidentiality of the customer's disability must be maintained.



Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Personally identifiable information (PII) refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity.

- A document which contains PII must be sent using the TTW destination button on center scanners. The document is then sent to a protected queue.
- In the event this method is not functional, an email may be sent. However, identifying information cannot be in an email's subject line or used to name an accompanying file, even if the email or file is encrypted.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Examples of commonly used PII:

- Name (any and all parts)
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Telephone numbers
- State identification number

Ticket to Work (TTW)

The ultimate goal of the program is to assist beneficiaries whom receive SSA reduce their reliance on those benefits and to promote increased self-sufficiency and greater independence through the utilization of available employment services.

CareerSource Pinellas is an Employment Network (EN) and may work with those whom have been assigned a ticket.



Ticket to Work (TTW)

TTW has program specific requirements for eligibility and are as follows:

- must be receiving SSA benefits
- must be between the ages of 18 and 64

If the above are met, the individual must also:

- Desire increased employability skills
- Have a goal for full-time employment

Ticket to Work (TTW)

Initial eligibility assessment

Pre-screening Form

located at Marketing/Communications/Ticket to Work on our intranet and at each center's Resource Rooms

Program Specific Requirements

these are represented as the first four questions on the form and are used by front line staff to assist with initial screening

if all answers are "yes", the remainder of the form is completed and then scanned to the TTW queue.

***If these requirements are not met, the resource room staff proceeds with serving the customer.



Additional Information

- Interpretive Services Request Form
located on our intranet at Marketing/Communications/Ticket to Work
- Working While Disabled: How We Can Help Brochure
<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf>
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) / Area 4
provides intensive services, including job coaching
http://www.rehabworks.org/area4_offices.shtml