

Ticket to Work SSA Continuing Disability Reviews and Maximus Progress Reviews

Important Note: This sheet provides a general overview of the rules on SSA Continuing Disability Reviews and Maximus Progress Reviews under the Ticket to Work Program. For more information about the Ticket to Work Program, contact Maximus, at 1-866-968-7842 (TTY 1-866-833-2967). For more information about the Continuing Disability Review process, contact the Social Security Administration toll-free at 1-800-772-1213.

Periodically, SSA performs medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR). These are reviews done to update your medical files and determine if your disability has improved or worsened over time.

One of the benefits you get when you assign your Ticket to Work to Vocational Rehabilitation is that Social Security won't do a medical CDR as long as your Ticket is "in use" and you are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment.



How do I know if my Ticket is actually "in use" and that I am meeting all of the guidelines that I am supposed to be meeting?

Maximus, the Ticket to Work Program manager, conducts "timely progress reviews" to ensure that you are making progress toward self-supporting employment so that your Ticket remains "in use" after you've assigned it.



When do they do reviews?

They do the first review at the end your initial 24-month period, about two years after you first assigned your Ticket. Then they do a review approximately every 12 months after that.



What do they look for?

In the initial 24-month period they ask these questions:

1. Are you actively participating in your employment plan? Are you doing the activities outlined in your plan on a regular basis and in about the same timeframes as written in your plan?
2. Does your employment plan have a goal of at least 3 months of employment at or above SGA (Substantial Gainful Employment, currently \$780/month), before deductions, by the end of the next 12-month period?
3. Given your current progress, can you reasonably expect to reach the 3-month work goal by the end of the next 12-month period?

Then, during the next 12-month period, they ask:

1. Did you work and have earnings at the SGA level (before deductions) for 3 months out of the last 12 months?
2. Can you reasonably expect to work and have earnings at SGA (before deductions) for 6 out of the next 12 months?

In the second 12-month period, they ask:

1. Did you work and have earnings at the SGA level (before deductions) for 6 out of the last 12 months?
2. Can you reasonably expect to work and make enough money so that you don't get an SSDI or SSI check for 6 out of the next 12 months?

In the third and subsequent 12-month periods, they ask:

1. Did you work and make enough money so that you did not get an SSDI or SSI check for 6 out of the last 12 months?
2. Do you expect to do the same thing for the next 12 months?

If you can answer “yes” to all these questions at each review, Maximus will find that you are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment, and your CDR protections will continue.

How long can my CDR protection last?

Your CDR protection can last until you have worked and earned enough money so that you have not received an SSDI or SSI check for 60 months, or until you turn 65. The 60 months do not have to be all in a row. They can be spread out over a long period of time.



What happens if Maximus decides I am not making timely progress toward self-supporting employment?

They will send you a letter that explains why they have made that decision. It will also tell you what to do if you don't agree.

If you're not making progress, you are considered to be not using your Ticket and you lose your CDR protection.

You can get your Ticket put back “in use” by showing that you have met your progress guidelines. For the initial 24-month period or the first 12-month period, you do this by working the 3 months at SGA. For the second 12-month period, you have to work the 6 months at SGA. For each 12-month period after that, you have to work for at least 6 months out of each 12-month period and make enough money so that you don't get an SSDI or SSI check.