

Ticket To Work & Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999

Lessons To be Learned From Chicken Little



George Chung

Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act of 1999

December 17, 1999

- Increases Choice
- Removes Barriers
- More Opportunities

Provisions of the Law come into effect at various times

Expanded Availability of Health Care Services

October 1, 2000

Medicare

- Extends Part A premium free Medicare for 4 1/2 years beyond the current limits

Medicaid

- States Option for Buy-In
 - 16-64 year olds with disabilities who work
 - Above 250 % of Poverty Level
 - Medical assistance to workers who are not yet too disabled to work

Expedited Reinstatement of Benefits

- # January 1, 2001
- # Both Title II and Title XVI
 - Benefits end due to WORK
 - Unable to work due of their disability
 - 60 months from work termination to request reinstatement of benefits
 - Six months of provisional payments & appropriate medical benefits while awaiting re-determination decision

Continuing Disability Reviews

January 1, 2001

- No CDRs while an individual is using a “TICKET”
 - Cash benefits may still cease due to earnings

January 1, 2002

- Work Activity will not be used as a basis for CDRs
 - Must have received at least 24 months of benefits
 - Regularly scheduled CDRs will still be done

Work Incentive Advisory Panel

- # **Appointed by the President and Congress**
- # **12 members**
- # **At least of members are individuals with disabilities or representatives w/ considerations to current or former beneficiaries**
 - **Advise the Commissioner and report to Congress on implementation of the TICKET Program**

Work Incentives Outreach Program

Community based Benefit Planning Assistance and Outreach

- BPAO Projects
- SSA Employment Support Representatives
 - Grants, Cooperative Agreements, Contracts
 - Disseminate accurate information related to Work Incentives
 - Outreach

Protection and Advocacy

State Advocacy Systems

- All States
- Provide
 - Information
 - Advice
 - Advocacy
 - Other Services to disability beneficiaries

Demonstration Projects and Studies

Five Years

■ Title II

- Reducing SSDI payments by \$1.00 for each \$2.00 earned over a certain amount
- Implementation dates and locations to be announced

The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program

January 1, 2001

- Phased in Nationally over a three year period 13 States named in first round

Voluntary

Title II and Title XVI Beneficiaries

- Physical Ticket
- Approved Providers (Employment Networks)
of individual's choice
 - Employment services
 - Other support services
 - VR services

National Program Manager

Maximus, Inc McLean, Virginia

- Recruitment of Employment Networks
- Facilitation of Access By Beneficiaries to Employment Network
- Ensuring Availability of Adequate Services
- Ensuring Reasonable Access to Services

Payment Choices

Outcome Payments

- 40% of National Benefit amounts
- Up to 5 years of payments

Milestone Outcome Payments

- Less than Outcome Payment
- 3 and 6 months Milestone Payments

What does this mean to VR?

Opportunity

- Client by Client
 - Traditional Reimbursement
 - Outcome/Milestone Outcome

Challenge

- Educating Counselors
- Determining Payment system
- Functioning as an EN

What does this mean to Employment Networks?

Opportunity

- Customer by Customer
- Generate new funding source

Challenge

- Where do you get the up front money
- Payments are made when no SSA benefits are received
- Payments may be less then the cost of Rehabilitation

Lessons Learned from Chicken Little

- # **The Sky is Not Falling!**
 - **Regulations Have Not Been Finalized!**
 - **Be Patient!**
 - **Be Optimistic!**
 - **Don't Believe Everything You Hear!**



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