

Webcast 6 – What Innovative Income Stream with a Disability Focus Exists to Support American Job Centers?

First Slide:

David: Good Morning Laura.

Laura: Good Morning David.

David: Laura when we talk about resources, we often first think of funding availability. We know states are increasingly facing tighter budgets and a question we are sometimes asked is “Is there an Income Stream that can be integrated within the American Job Center While Also Supporting People with Disabilities who want to Work?”

Second Slide:

Laura: I’m so excited, David that I can reply and say the simple answer to that question is yes! This can be achieved through the American Job Centers becoming Employment Networks, commonly referenced as ENs, through the Ticket to Work program. The Ticket program, for short, can help individuals with disabilities receiving disability benefits on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) with opportunities to return to work, stay employed, and increase earnings. As a result, beneficiaries with disabilities may reduce their dependency on public benefits and become more economically self-sufficient and a contributing member of their community.

Participation as an EN also provides an additional revenue source to the American Job Center delivery system since revenue generated through Ticket payments is not considered program income and will not replace existing funding sources. So what are we talking about here David in terms of revenue - In FY 2016, for example, American Job Centers serving as Employment Networks received a total of \$7 million in payment for services from the Social Security Administration.

David: That sounds like a win-win Laura. A win for the individual with a disability having a pathway out of receiving disability benefits and a win for the American Job Center to receive a source of funding in providing services.

Third Slide (TA Tool): [WorkforceGPS Ticket to Work Resources](#)

David: In further building on what you described Laura, WorkforceGPS developed a resource page giving an overview of the Ticket to Work program. It is currently broken out into three key areas: Overview, Partnership Solutions, and Additional Resources.

Under the subheader titled Partnership Solutions, I often point people to an innovative vehicle called “Partnership Plus”. Basically, under the Partnership Plus service model, the Social Security Administration could compensate both a State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency and an EN that serve the same beneficiary under the same Ticket. This vehicle becomes a great incentive for VR and an American Job Center to work together. You can click on this slide to learn more.

Laura: It sounds like Partnership Plus really exudes the spirit of WIOA in working together across programs. I know you enjoy hearing historical quotes, so I thought I would share one from Ronald Reagan that this reminds me of: “By working together, pooling our resources, and building on our strengths, we can accomplish great things.” As you said a moment ago, it is a win-win situation!

David: That is a cool quote and rings true today!

Fourth Slide: [WorkforceGPS Employment Network Tools](#)

Laura: As we drill down further, David, another WorkforceGPS resource to help workforce professionals participate in the Ticket program focuses on Employment Network Tools. As we kind of alluded to earlier, an Employment Network is the entity that administers the Ticket to Work Program. Becoming an EN is a required component of the DEI projects and this page was originally developed to support our DEI grantees. However, we later found that this page can be a resource to support the larger workforce system as they seek innovative funding stream approaches. You can click on this slide to learn more.

Fifth Slide:

David: This slide lists the resources referenced earlier. Please check them out when you have a moment today.

Sixth Slide:

Laura: And for those listening in, thanks for joining our coffee chat. On behalf of the Employment and Training Administration, we hope these resources help people with disabilities rise and shine in the labor market.