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2005 Work Incentives Payment Rates Announced

The Social Security Administration has released the 2005 payment rates used in calculating Social Security Administration work incentives. Each December new calculations and payment rates are released for the Trial Work Period (TWP) Service Month Rate, Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA), the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR), and the Payment Calculation Base



(PCB). The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Resource Limit was not changed this year.

Each of these numbers can have an impact on Ticket-holders and their benefits. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Ticket-holders will see an increase in the Trial Work Period

Service Month Rate from \$580 to \$590. The Trial Work Period allows SSDI beneficiaries to continue to receive their cash benefits until they earn nine service months over a rolling

Figure 1: 2005 Work Incentives Payment Rates

	2004 Dollar Amounts	2005 Dollar Amounts
TWP Service Month Rate	\$580	\$590
Non-Blind SGA Rate	\$810	\$830
Blind SGA Rate	\$1,350	\$1,380
SSI Resource Limit Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000
SSI Resource Limit Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000
SSI Federal Benefit Rate Individual	\$564	\$579
SSI Federal Benefit Rate Couple	\$846	\$869
Title II PCB Rate	\$840.61	\$868.20
Title XVI PCB Rate	\$498.34	\$510.23

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Message from the Training Manager:

The MAXIMUS Ticket to Work Training team wishes you and your organization a prosperous and Happy New Year! Many good things are on the horizon and we look forward to bringing you the news and updates throughout the year. The first announcement of the year is the new 2005 Payment Calculation Base and Outcome and Outcome-Milestone Payment Rates. We are eagerly awaiting the expected New Proposed Regulations for public comment and new guidance on fully implementing

procedures allowing employers to claim the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for Ticket-holders. Join us this year for our new EN Forum Teleconference Series and stay connected with MAXIMUS and other ENs.

Terry Martin, Ed.D. Training Manager

2005 Work Incentives Payment Rates Announced Continued....

60-month period. During the Trial Work Period, ENs can receive Milestone payments if they have chosen the Outcome-Milestone payment method, but would not receive any Outcome payments since the Ticket-holder



would still receive a cash benefit.

The Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) has increased \$20 for non-blind individuals and \$30 dollars for individuals receiving benefits due to

blindness. This means that a Ticket-holder will need to earn the new increased SGA levels in order for ENs to submit a claim for Milestone payments.

The Federal Benefit Rate for SSI program individuals

Figure 2: New 2005 Outcome Payment Rates

Outcome Payment Method	Achieved when:	% of PCB	SSI Outcome Payment	SSDI Outcome Payment
Up to 60 Outcome Payments	SSA disability benefits and Federal SSI cash benefits are not payable to the individual because of earnings.	40%	\$204	\$347
Total Outcome Payments Available (60 payments)			\$12,240	\$20,820

refers to the maximum amount of federal benefit available per month. This is the starting point for calculating the monthly benefit for an SSI beneficiary. The increase means that an individual would need to earn \$30 dollars more, given all other circumstances had not changed, a month to get to a zero cash benefit.

The Payment Calculation Base is used as part of the formula to determine the Outcome and Milestone payments for the Ticket to Work Program. Every year, the Social Security Administration adjusts the PCB based on last year's average payment to SSI beneficiaries and last year's average payment to SSDI beneficiaries. The Outcome and Milestone payments are therefore calculated on the national average disability payment and not on the Ticket-holder's specific benefit.

The Social Security Administration rounds the payments to the nearest whole dollar and has established the payment

Figure 3: New 2005 Outcome-Milestone Payment Rates

Milestone	Achieved when Earnings are above SGA (months)	% of PCB	SSI Milestone Payment	SSDI Outcome Payment
1	1	34%	\$173	\$295
2	3 out of 12	68%	\$347	\$590
3	7 out of 12	136%	\$694	\$1,181
4	12 out of 15	170%	\$867	\$1,476
Total of the 4 Milestone Payments Available			\$2,081	\$3,442
+ up to 60 (reduced) Outcome Payments	SSA disability benefits and Federal SSI cash benefits are not payable to the individual because of earnings.	34% - 1/60th of Milestones already paid	\$138-\$173	\$235-\$295
Total Available (4 Milestones + 60 Outcome payments)			\$10,380	\$17,700

amounts for 2005. Figure 2 provides the 2005 Outcome Payment Rates and Figure 3 provides the Outcome-Milestone Payment Rates.

The official posting of all new 2005 Social Security Administration benefit rates can be found by visiting the Social Security Administration's Web site at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/whatsnew.html>.

Free EN Capitalization Training is Coming to a City Near You!

Locations	Dates
Las Vegas, NV	January 21, 2005
New Orleans, LA	February 17, 2005
Seattle, WA	March 17, 2005

Participants will be instructed in the use of the EN Capitalization Resource Directory as a tool for seeking and securing funding. The seminar will focus on developing strategic fund-raising processes. Particular emphasis will be given to accessing funding from foundations, and hands-on exercises to develop skills in fund-raising. The seminar will be

conducted in **two identical three-hour sessions**. The morning session will be conducted from **9:00 AM until 12:00 PM**, and the afternoon session from **1:00 PM until 4:00 PM**. **Participants may choose the most convenient location and session**. There is **no registration fee**, and Certified Rehabilitation Counselors will be awarded 2.75 contact hours.

The Beneficiary Referral List

A benefit of being an approved Employment Network is a having access to information on Ticket-holders in your contracted service area. This information is available by subscribing to the Beneficiary Referral List and contacting the MAXIMUS Ticket to Work Help Line for Ticket assignability.

The Beneficiary Referral List contains confidential information on Ticket beneficiaries and Employment Networks are contractually obligated to protect the privacy and confidentiality of beneficiary information received from MAXIMUS. Through the EN Request for Proposal (RFP) process, organizations formally acknowledge the applicability of the Privacy Act to federal government contractors and federal government contract employees and agree to explain the Privacy Act requirements to their employees.

The Beneficiary Referral Lists is provided to active Employment Networks in the format of their choice - either CD-ROM, diskette, hardcopy, or through the secured, Web-based Bulletin Board Service (BBS). Most ENs choose to receive the referral list in the CD-ROM format. This allows an EN to sort the data fields and better target specific geographic areas. MAXIMUS will contact Employment Networks to discuss their preferred method for

receiving referrals.



The Beneficiary Referral List is updated monthly and includes new Ticket-holder accretions. The Beneficiary Referral List provides the Ticket-holder's name, address, phone number and legal

guardian and/or representative payee, if applicable; and does not indicate the services they are seeking or their disability.

Please note, the monthly referral files will be distributed only to active providers or those providers that specifically request to receive a monthly referral list.

An effective way to utilize the list is to look at the current population you serve and match against the referral list. These are the individuals with whom a relationship has already been established. Employment Networks can use the referral list during the intake process to check potential candidates. After instituting these measures, Employment Networks may want to consider external marketing to Ticket-holders.

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) Contact Hours Available for Online Ticket to



CRC Contact Hours are available for successful completion of any Ticket to Work Online Courses. To receive CRC contact Hours, contact Andrea Stapleton at andreastapleton@maximus.com for enrollment information. Type "CRC Enrollment" in the subject field and include your Employer Identification Number (EIN).

EN Capitalization & Ticket to Work Training Registration Form:

To register for an upcoming EN Capitalization & Ticket to Work Training session, you may either access the registration form at www.yourtickettowork.com and click on EN Capitalization Resources, or call 1-866-968-7842 ext. 6662.



Keep Your Contact Information Up-to-Date

In order to keep you updated on the latest Ticket to Work news and information, we need you to keep us informed of any changes to your contact information. You can e-mail, fax, or write us with updates to this information, including the services you provide, groups served, and service area.



Join the January 25th EN Teleconference

Date: January 25, 2005

Time: 1:00 -3:00 PM Eastern Time

Host: Terry Martin, Ed.D. & Dan Betts

Topic: Getting Your Ticket-Holders to Payment Earnings Levels

Ticket to Work Program

For more information, please call us at the MAXIMUS Ticket to Work toll free number below, or visit us at our Web site at: www.yourtickettowork.com

1-866 YOURTICKET
(1-866-968-7842)

Fax: 703-683-0957

Training resources for the business of Ticket!

Attend an interactive strategy planning session with MAXIMUS and other Employment Networks to develop assessment techniques for selecting Ticket beneficiaries with whom to work with, and to identify and implement support systems to increase Program success. Terry Martin, Ed.D. and Dan Betts of the MAXIMUS Training team will introduce strategies used by ENs around the country to attract Ticket-holders who are ready, willing, and able to achieve the goals of the Program and have a good chance at success. Since this is an interactive session, ENs will be invited to share their best practices and offer suggestions.

The EN Teleconference Training is open to all ENs. ENs interested in participating may do so by calling or e-mailing Terry and Dan to request dial-in information. The Forum will be conducted simultaneously via conference call and through the Chat Room on the EN Forum. Instructions will be mailed to those invited and other ENs who register. Space will be limited to a fixed number of participants. Depending upon interest, additional sessions may be scheduled.

Navigation instructions for the EN Forum can now be found on the Web site at www.yourtickettowork.com under "Training." If you are not currently enrolled in the EN Forum, please send an e-mail request to Andrea Stapleton at andreastapleton@maximus.com. Type "EN Forum Enrollment" in the subject field and include your Employer Identification Number (EIN). Enrollment information and navigation instructions will be e-mailed back to you. The EN Forum is accessible by approved ENs only.



CD-ROM Training Now Available

1. IWP Process
2. Payment Process

Contact your Ticket Training Team now!

We're on the Web!
www.yourtickettowork.com

Meet the MAXIMUS Training Team



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