

Ticket to Work at Abilities in Motion

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Abilities in Motion

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- Social Security beneficiaries may call or email me about the Ticket to Work program

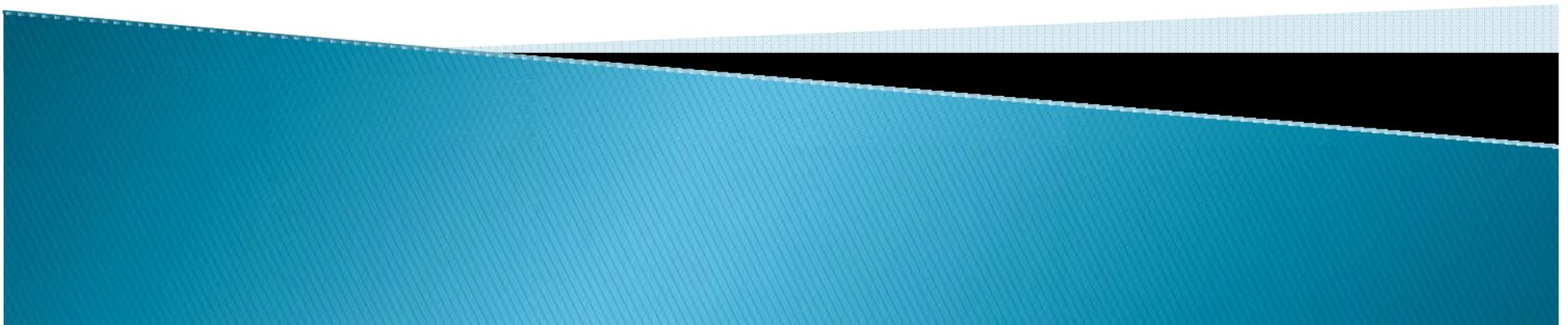
Important Facts

- Social Security created this program for beneficiaries who are motivated to return to the workforce and be self-sufficient from benefits.
- Participation in the program is completely voluntary and free
- The beneficiary chooses which Employment Network they want to use. Also, the Employment Network chooses if they decide to assign the beneficiary's ticket.
- Once the ticket is assigned, a beneficiary is not subjected to a continuing medical disability review as long as their ticket is assigned, and they are progressing toward their employment goals.
- Eligibility if beneficiaries between the ages of 16-64 and is receiving Social Security benefits
- The beneficiary must be motivated to minimally reach Substantial Gainful Activity to become self-sufficient from their benefits.

- Ticket to Work was originally created for SSDI beneficiaries
- SSI recipients can use the Ticket to Work program, but the rules are different
- In general, if an SSI recipient works, for every \$2.00 they earn, they will lose \$1.00 in their SSI check once the first \$85.00 is excluded.
- SSI recipients can make approximately \$30,000 before they would lose their medical insurance.
- SSDI beneficiaries have 9 months to make as much as they want before their benefits are affected.
- After the 9th month, SSDI beneficiaries earn over Substantial Gainful Activity, they will be at risk of not receiving their cash benefit, not their medical insurance.
- Both SSI and SSDI beneficiaries can use Impairment Related Work Expenses to try and bring their income beneath Substantial Gainful Activity.
- Once a beneficiary loses their cash benefit, they have up to 5 years to go through Expedited Reinstatement if they reduce the hours or lose their employment due to their disability.

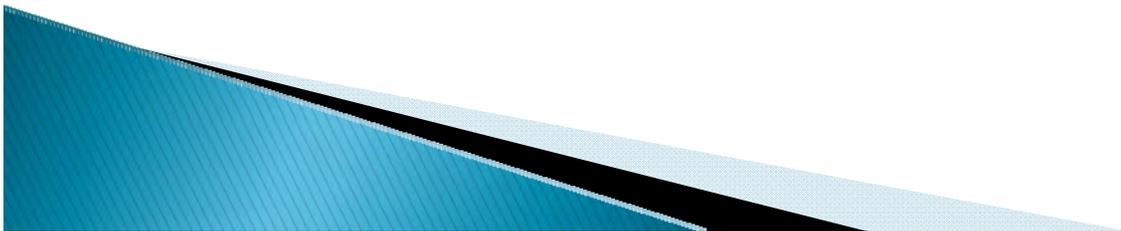
The Ticket to Work Program Basics

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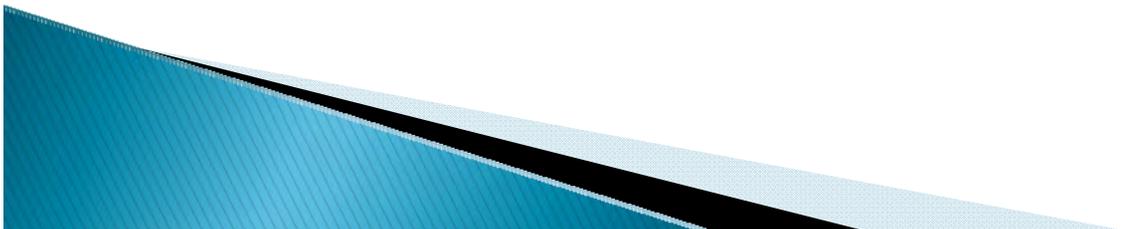
History of Ticket to Work

- ▶ The program is a work incentive designed by Social Security Administration under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999.
- ▶ In 2008, Social Security revamped the Ticket to Work program.



History of Ticket to Work

- ▶ The goals of the Ticket to Work program are:
 - Reduce reliance on Social Security disability benefits
 - Increase independence
 - Improve quality of life by promoting self sufficiency for beneficiaries with disabilities through work



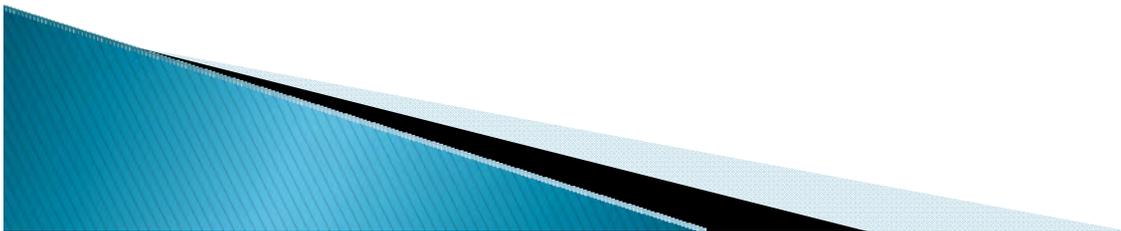
History of Ticket to Work

- ▶ It was created for beneficiaries who are motivated to return to the work force and be self sufficient from benefits
- ▶ Participation is voluntary and free to the beneficiary
- ▶ The beneficiary chooses which Employment Network they want to use. Also, the Employment Network chooses if they decide to assign the beneficiary's ticket



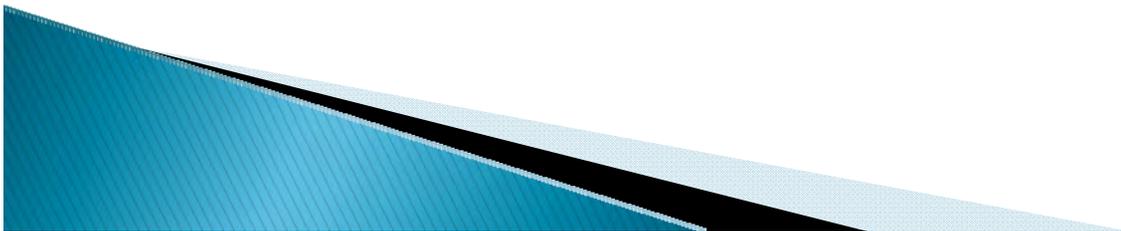
History of Ticket to Work

- ▶ As part of the program, a beneficiary can also use their ticket to obtain services and supports to help them become self-employed or start their own business.
- ▶ Once the ticket is assigned for the program, a beneficiary is not subjected to medical continuing disability reviews as long as their ticket is assigned and are progressing toward their employment goals.



Eligibility

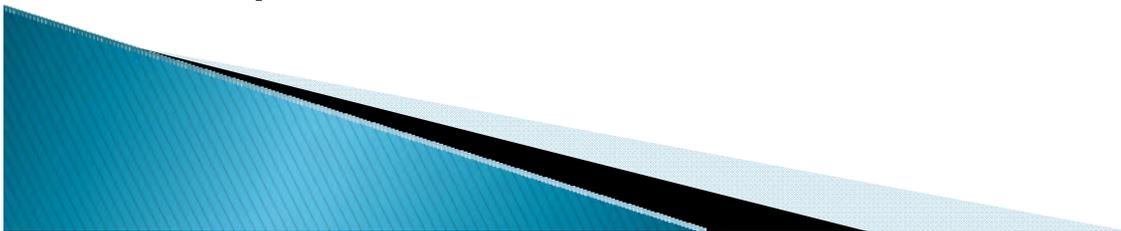
- ▶ The beneficiary is between the ages of 18 and 64
- ▶ The beneficiary is receiving SSI and/or SSDI
- ▶ Motivated to minimally reach Substantial Gainful Activity to become self sufficient from their benefits



Agencies Involved in Ticket to Work

▶ Social Security Administration

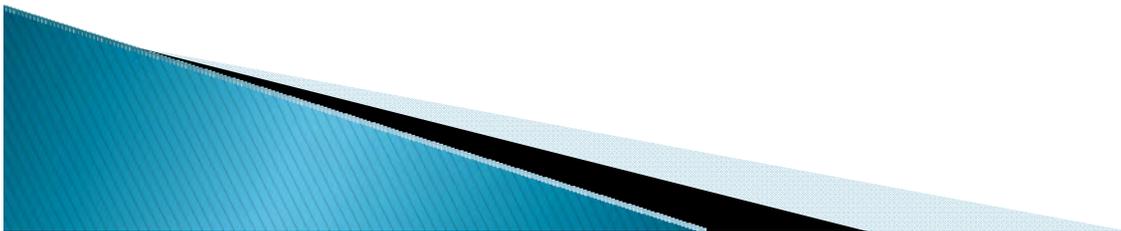
- Determines when a beneficiary is eligible for their Ticket
- Writes the regulations for the program, and Congress approves or changes the regulations when necessary
- Sponsor meetings and webinars throughout the year to educate beneficiaries about the program



Agencies Involved in Ticket to Work

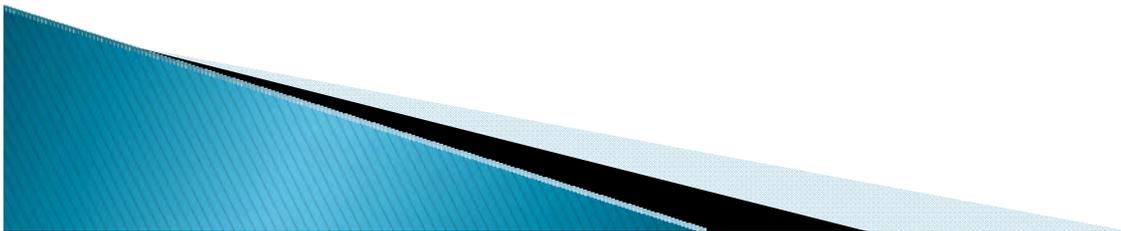
▶ Maximus

- Responsible for overseeing the administration/ day to day operations of the Ticket to Work program
- Maintains the database of all the Employment Networks
- Assists beneficiaries in locating Employment Networks for their area



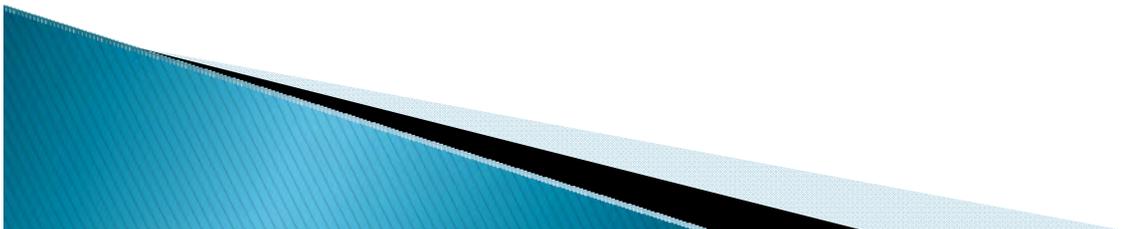
Agencies Involved in Ticket to Work

- ▶ Employment Networks
 - Are organizations, such as AIM, that can assist the beneficiary find employment and provide other employment services



Agencies Involved in Ticket to Work

- ▶ Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security
 - Assist beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about receiving services
 - Provide advocacy or other related services the beneficiary may need to secure or regain gainful employment



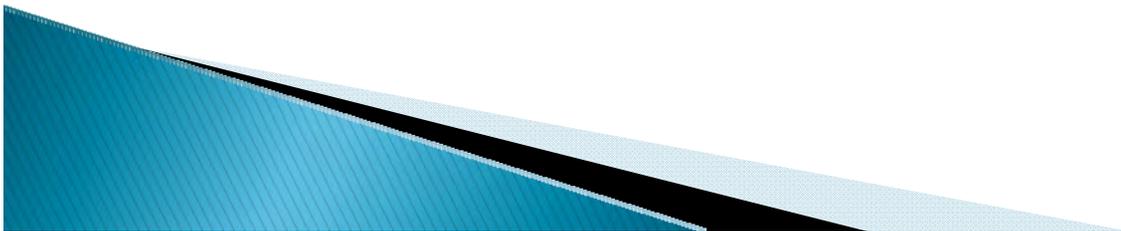
Ticket Assignment Process

- ▶ The beneficiary receives a ticket and calls 1-866-968-7842
- ▶ Maximus provides information about Employment Networks in the beneficiary's area and the services the Employment Network has to offer
- ▶ The beneficiary chooses which Employment Networks they want to meet with and see if there will be a good relationship



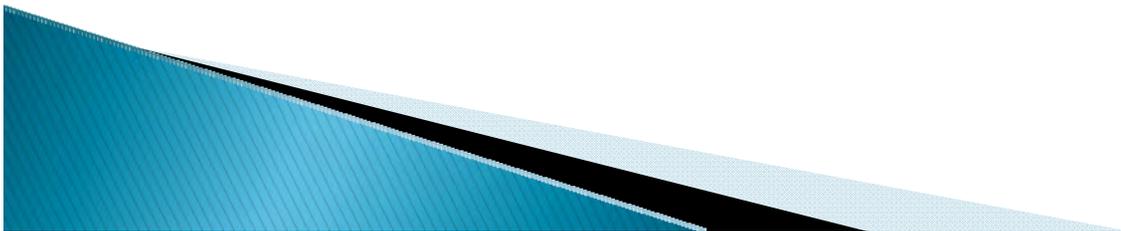
Ticket Assignment Process

- ▶ Next, the Employment Network verifies if the beneficiary's ticket is assignable
- ▶ If the beneficiary and Employment choose to work together, they will develop an individualized work plan
- ▶ The work plan is then submitted to Maximus, and is determined if the ticket should be assigned or not
- ▶ A confirmation letter is sent to the Employment Network and beneficiary about ticket assignment



Individual Work Plan

- ▶ Is a plan that identifies the employment goals a beneficiary has, but also outlines the services and supports the Employment Network will provide to assist the beneficiary in achieving those goals



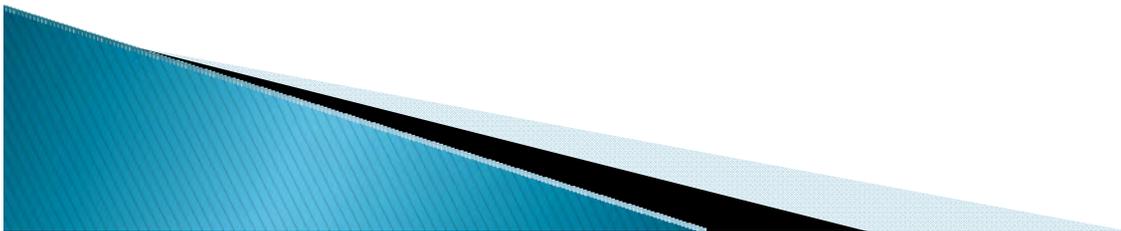
Trial Work Period

- ▶ Is a period of time (9 months) that allows beneficiaries to test their ability to work. During this period, the beneficiary will receive their full SSDI benefits regardless of how high the earnings might be.
- ▶ The Trial Work Period does not apply to SSI recipients
- ▶ A Trial Work month is counted when the beneficiary earns minimally \$720 a month



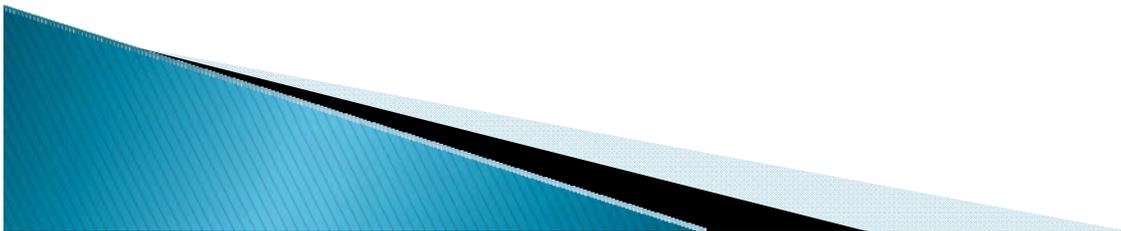
After the Trial Work Period

- ▶ On the 10th month, if a beneficiary is earning Substantial Gainful Activity, the beneficiary will no longer receive their SSDI cash benefits.
- ▶ Substantial Gainful Activity is when Social Security evaluates the work activity of individuals claiming or receiving disability under SSDI, and/or claiming benefits because of a disability (other than blindness) under SSI



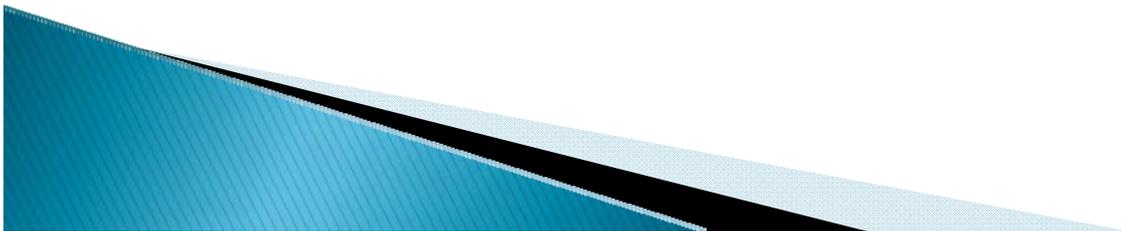
Timely Progress Review

- ▶ The ticket program regulations require a beneficiary to make timely progress toward their stated employment goal in order for the person's ticket to be considered in use and for the person to be protected from Social Security performing continuing disability review of the beneficiary's medical condition



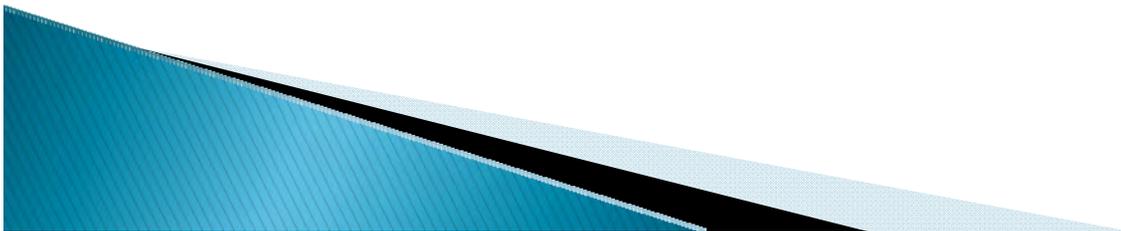
Timely Progress Review

- ▶ MAXIMUS will review the beneficiary's file every 12 months to make sure the beneficiary is making timely progress toward the employment goal. This can include educational pursuits. As long as a beneficiary is participating in activities outlined in their individualized work plan and cooperates with the Employment Network, Maximus will likely find that the beneficiary is making timely progress toward their employment goal.



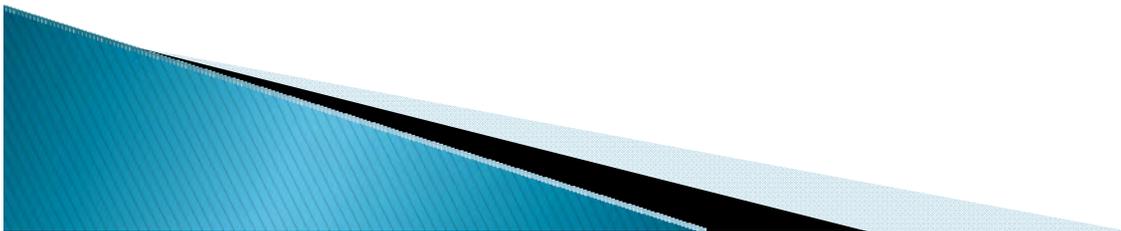
Timely Progress Review

- ▶ Even if the beneficiary is not making timely progress, the beneficiary can still use their ticket and it is still assigned to an Employment Network, but the beneficiary is no longer protected from any continuing disability reviews.



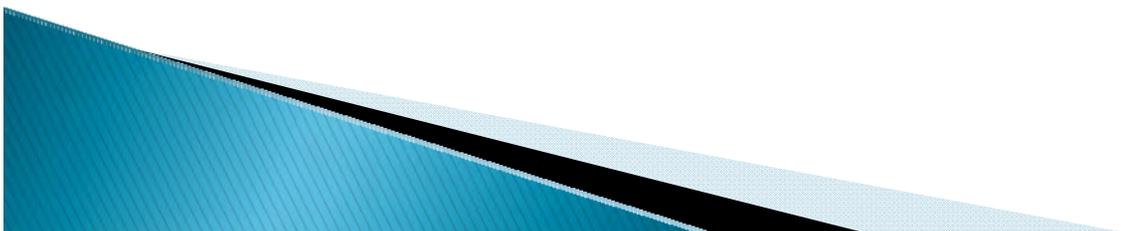
Expedited Reinstatement

- ▶ Is a safety net for those individuals who successfully return to work, and later lose their entitlement to SSDI or SSI benefits and payments. If the beneficiary's cash payments ended because of their work and earnings, and the beneficiary stops work within 5 years of when the benefits ended, Social Security may be able to restart the benefits.

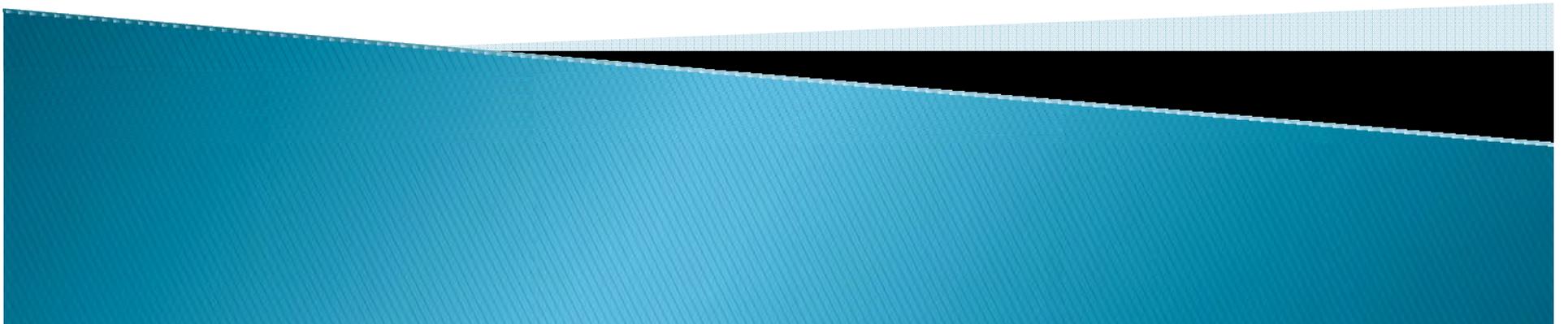


Expedited Reinstatement

- ▶ If a beneficiary has stopped receiving benefits due to their work, they may be able to restart again without a new application. The expedited reinstatement provision allows an individual to receive up to 6 months of temporary cash benefits as Social Security conducts a medical review to determine whether the individual can be reinstated benefits. The individual may also be eligible for Medicare and/or Medicaid during the provisional period.



Questions???



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