

Social Security Administration Employment Networks Questionnaire

Introduction

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has contracted with The Gallup Organization to assist the Agency in determining the level of interest of organizations in becoming Employment Networks, which will deliver employment-related services to Social Security disability beneficiaries under public law 106-170, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvements Act of 1999 (TWWIA). This information will be used to develop profiles of potential Employment Networks, including their capabilities, the types of services they offer, and their availability to all SSA disability beneficiaries. SSA will use these profiles to facilitate the rapid recruitment of Employment Networks within the timeframes specified in the Act. **Response to the questionnaire is NOT a part of the eligibility application process.**

The purposes of collecting this information is to:

1. Determine the level of interest of organizations for participation in Employment Networks;
2. Identify and profile organizations with potential for serving as Employment Networks;
3. Evaluate the capability of these organizations to provide employment-related Services; and
4. Assess the availability of Employment Network coverage to all SSA disability beneficiaries.

Background

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (TWWIA) is designed to minimize the barriers that disability beneficiaries currently encounter in entering the workforce by expanding the availability of healthcare services and coverage; eliminating work disincentives; providing work incentives planning, assistance, and outreach; and creating the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. This Program will provide more choices in receiving employment services and increase provider incentives to serve disability beneficiaries.

Under the Program, the Commissioner of SSA may issue a ticket to a disabled beneficiary, who in turn may assign that ticket to any Employment Network of the beneficiary's choice that is serving under the Program and is willing to accept the assignment. The Commissioner of SSA will select and enter into agreements with Employment Networks to provide employment, training, vocational rehabilitation and other support services. Such Employment Networks shall be in addition to the existing State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies.

Definition of Employment Network

An Employment Network is one or more businesses or organizations, which is approved by SSA

under the Program for payment in connection with providing employment-related services to SSI or SSDI beneficiaries. An Employment Network may be a private business/organization or a public agency, non-profit or for-profit. It may be a one-stop delivery system, a group of providers organized to combine their resources into a network, a single entity, or a single entity that contracts out certain employment related services. The Employment Networks may operate in one State, in multiple States, or nationwide. An Employment Network serves prescribed service areas and takes measures to ensure that services provided under the Program meet the requirements of individual work plans. The Employment Network will receive payment from SSA through an outcome or milestone system of payment. SSA is presently drafting guidelines that will describe these payment systems.

Questionnaire Procedures

In late April 2000, questionnaires will be mailed to about 21,000 private businesses and organizations, public agencies and non-profit organizations from a list compiled by Gallup. The mailing list is not comprehensive and all such entities providing employment, employment-related services, vocational rehabilitation or other support services are eligible to respond to the questionnaire. Organizations will also have the option of completing the questionnaire on the World Wide Web. The web site address and a unique PIN number for accessing the web questionnaire will be provided with the paper questionnaire.

If your organization would like to be included in this initiative, please call Gallup' s toll-free hotline at 1-800-788-9987 or send an email to SSA_EN@gallup.com. Please leave the name of your organization, the name of a contact person at your organization, your organization' s address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.