

RE: KY Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Good day,

The organization listed above assists the Social Security Administration (SSA) beneficiaries as part of the Ticket to Work program (Ticket program).

Congress authorized Social Security's Ticket program in Section 101 of P.L. 106-170, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. You may find the language in Section 1148 of the Social Security Act and references to the program launched under this legislation in POMS DI 55001.000. Social Security's Office of Research, Demonstration, and Employment Support has a cooperative arrangement with the above organization. Under this authority, SSA funds State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (SVRA) to provide vocational services to Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income recipients who are working or seeking work. Social Security provides training at no cost to VR staff and venders to provide work incentives counseling. Community Partner Work Incentives Counselors (CPWIC), who provide the counseling, obtain verification in the form of a Benefits Planning Query (BPQY) to ensure they provide accurate work incentives counseling that reflects the latest information in our records. In addition, individuals providing work incentives counseling may require clarification or assistance if the BPQY does not provide complete information reflecting the beneficiary's current circumstance.

Please comply with the attached request for a BPQY or other assistance if it contains the appropriate releases or if you have a current SSA-3288 in the electronic file. For complete instructions on obtaining a BPQY and more information regarding consent document requirements, see our BPQY Handbook located at https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/documents/BPQY_Handbook.pdf.

Please do not send an invoice in response to this request. SSA offices should not charge SVRAs or SVRA venders for BPQYs or other verification requests.

If you have questions about the specific attached request, please contact the SVRA organization.

If you have any questions about the Ticket program, please email the ^ORDES CAG Controls mailbox (<u>ORDES.CAG.Controls@SSA.gov</u>).

For policy guidance see Emergency Message <u>EM-23004</u> - New Benefits Planning Query (BPQY) Third-Party Enhancements and Reminders.

We appreciate your help supporting our programs.

Susan Wilschke, Acting Associate Commissioner Social Security Administration Office of Research, Demonstration, and Employment Support