

pursuant to an individualized plan for employment (IPE) and the State VR agency has chosen to be paid for these services under the cost reimbursement payment system, and you are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment as defined in §411.180. (See §411.171 for when the period of using a ticket ends.)

(b) *Timely progress toward self-supporting employment* means you have completed the specified goals of work and earnings, or completed the specified post-secondary education credits at an educational institution (see §411.167) in pursuit of a degree or certificate, or completed specified course requirements for a vocational or technical training program at an educational institution consisting of a technical, trade or vocational school (see §411.167), or completed a certain percentage of the work requirement and a certain percentage of the post-secondary education requirement or vocational or technical training requirement and the sum of the two percentages equals 100 or more (see §411.180(c)), or obtained a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate in the applicable progress certification period as described in §411.180.

(c) *Timely progress guidelines* mean the guidelines we use to determine if you are making timely progress toward self-supporting employment (see §411.180).

(d) *Progress certification period* means any 12-month progress certification period described in §411.180(b).

(e) *Progress review* means the reviews the PM conducts to determine if you are meeting the timely progress guidelines described in §411.180. We explain the method for conducting progress reviews in §411.200.

(f) *Extension period* is a period of up to 90 days during which you may reassign a ticket without being subject to continuing disability reviews. You may be eligible for an extension period if the ticket is in use and no longer assigned to an EN or State VR agency acting as an EN (see §411.220).

(g) *Inactive status* is a status in which you may place your ticket if you are temporarily or otherwise unable to make timely progress toward self-sup-

porting employment during a progress certification period. See §411.192 for the rules on placing your ticket in inactive status and on reactivating your ticket.

(h) *Variance tolerance* means the margin of flexibility whereby we will consider you to have met the requirement for completing a specified amount of post-secondary credit hours in an educational degree or certification program or the course requirements in a vocational or technical training program under §411.180 in the applicable progress certification period if your completion of credit hours or course requirements in this period is within 10% of the goal. Figures representing the number of credit hours required for the first and second progress certification periods as described in §411.180 will be rounded by dropping any fractions. Under the variance tolerance, we also will consider you to have met the requirements in an applicable progress certification period if you complete a certain percentage of the work requirement and a certain percentage of the post-secondary education requirement or vocational or technical training requirement in the period and the sum of the two percentages is within 10% of the goal. See §411.180(a) and (c).

(i) *VR cost reimbursement option* means an arrangement under which your ticket is not assigned to the State VR agency but you do receive services pursuant to an individualized plan for employment where the State VR agency has chosen to receive payment under the cost reimbursement payment system.

(j) *VR cost reimbursement status* means the status of your ticket under the arrangement described in paragraph (i) of this section. The period during which your ticket is in VR cost reimbursement status begins on the date described in §411.170(b) and ends on the date your case is closed by the State VR agency.

[73 FR 29340, May 20, 2008]

§411.167 What is an educational institution or a technical, trade or vocational school?

(a) *Educational institution* means a school (including a technical, trade, or vocational school), junior college, college or university that is: operated or

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directly supported by the United States; operated or directly supported by any State or local government or by a political subdivision of any State or local government; or approved by a State agency or subdivision of the State, or accredited by a State-recognized or nationally recognized accrediting body.

(b) *Technical, trade or vocational school* is an educational institution that is approved by a State agency or subdivision of the State or accredited by a State-recognized or nationally recognized accrediting body to provide technical, trade or vocational training.

(c) *State-recognized accrediting body* means an entity designated or recognized by a State as the proper authority for accrediting schools, colleges or universities.

(d) *Nationally recognized accrediting body* means an entity determined to be such by the U.S. Department of Education.

(e) *Approval by a State agency or subdivision of the State* includes approval of a school, college or university as an educational institution, or approval of one or more of the courses offered by a school, college or university.

[73 FR 29341, May 20, 2008]

§411.170 When does the period of using a ticket begin?

(a) The period of using a ticket begins on the effective date of the assignment of your ticket to an EN or State VR agency under §411.140.

(b) If you have a ticket that would otherwise be available for assignment and are receiving VR services pursuant to an individualized plan for employment (IPE) and the State VR agency has elected the VR cost reimbursement option, the period of using a ticket begins on the later of—

(1) The effective date of your IPE; or

(2) The first day your ticket would otherwise have been assignable if you had not been receiving services from a State VR agency that elected the VR cost reimbursement option.

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§411.171 When does the period of using a ticket end?

The period of using a ticket ends with the earliest of the following—

(a) The last day of the month before the month in which the ticket terminates as a result of one of the events listed in §411.155 (see §411.155(a)(4) and (c)(8) for when your ticket terminates if your outcome payment period ends);

(b) The day before the effective date of a decision under §411.200 or §411.205 that you are no longer making timely progress toward self-supporting employment;

(c) The last day of the 90-day extension period which begins with the first day of the first month in which your ticket is no longer assigned to an EN or State VR agency acting as an EN (see §411.145), unless you reassign your ticket within the 90-day extension period (see §411.220 for an explanation of the 90-day extension period); or

(d) If your ticket was in VR cost reimbursement status as described in §411.166(j), the 90th day following the date the State VR agency closes your case, unless you assign your ticket during this 90-day period.

[73 FR 29341, May 20, 2008]

§411.175 What if a continuing disability review is begun before my ticket is in use?

(a) If we begin a continuing disability review before the date on which your ticket is in use, you may still assign the ticket and receive services from an EN or a State VR agency acting as an EN under the Ticket to Work program, or you may still receive services from a State VR agency that elects the VR cost reimbursement option. However, we will complete the continuing disability review. If in this review we determine that you are no longer disabled, in most cases you will no longer be eligible to receive benefit payments. However, if your ticket was in use before we determined that you are no longer disabled, in certain circumstances you may continue to receive benefit payments (see §§404.316(c), 404.337(c), 404.352(d), and 416.1338 of this chapter). If you appeal the decision that you are no longer disabled, you may also choose to have your benefits continued pending reconsideration and/