

“(3) FULL IMPLEMENTATION.—The Commissioner shall ensure that ability to provide tickets and services to individuals under the Program exists in every State as soon as practicable on or after the effective date specified in subsection (c) but not later than 3 years after such date.

“(4) ONGOING EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner shall provide for independent evaluations to assess the effectiveness of the activities carried out under this section [enacting this section, amending sections 421, 422, 425, 1382d, 1383, and 1383b of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] and the amendments made thereby. Such evaluations shall address the cost-effectiveness of such activities, as well as the effects of this section and the amendments made thereby on work outcomes for beneficiaries receiving tickets to work and self-sufficiency under the Program.

“(B) CONSULTATION.—Evaluations shall be conducted under this paragraph after receiving relevant advice from experts in the fields of disability, vocational rehabilitation, and program evaluation and individuals using tickets to work and self-sufficiency under the Program and in consultation with the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel established under section 101(f) of this Act [set out as a note below], the Comptroller General of the United States, other agencies of the Federal Government, and private organizations with appropriate expertise.

“(C) METHODOLOGY.—

“(i) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Commissioner, in consultation with the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel established under section 101(f) of this Act, shall ensure that plans for evaluations and data collection methods under the Program are appropriately designed to obtain detailed employment information.

“(ii) SPECIFIC MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—Each such evaluation shall address (but is not limited to)—

“(I) the annual cost (including net cost) of the Program and the annual cost (including net cost) that would have been incurred in the absence of the Program;

“(II) the determinants of return to work, including the characteristics of beneficiaries in receipt of tickets under the Program;

“(III) the types of employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, and other support services furnished to beneficiaries in receipt of tickets under the Program who return to work and to those who do not return to work;

“(IV) the duration of employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, and other support services furnished to beneficiaries in receipt of tickets under the Program who return to work and the duration of such services furnished to those who do not return to work and the cost to employment networks of furnishing such services;

“(V) the employment outcomes, including wages, occupations, benefits, and hours worked, of beneficiaries who return to work after receiving tickets under the Program and those who return to work without receiving such tickets;

“(VI) the characteristics of individuals in possession of tickets under the Program who are not accepted for services and, to the extent reasonably determinable, the reasons for which such beneficiaries were not accepted for services;

“(VII) the characteristics of providers whose services are provided within an employment network under the Program;

“(VIII) the extent (if any) to which employment networks display a greater willingness to provide services to beneficiaries with a range of disabilities;

“(IX) the characteristics (including employment outcomes) of those beneficiaries who receive services under the outcome payment system

and of those beneficiaries who receive services under the outcome-milestone payment system;

“(X) measures of satisfaction among beneficiaries in receipt of tickets under the Program; and

“(XI) reasons for (including comments solicited from beneficiaries regarding) their choice not to use their tickets or their inability to return to work despite the use of their tickets.

“(D) PERIODIC EVALUATION REPORTS.—Following the close of the third and fifth fiscal years ending after the effective date under subsection (c), and prior to the close of the seventh fiscal year ending after such date, the Commissioner shall transmit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report containing the Commissioner’s evaluation of the progress of activities conducted under the provisions of this section and the amendments made thereby. Each such report shall set forth the Commissioner’s evaluation of the extent to which the Program has been successful and the Commissioner’s conclusions on whether or how the Program should be modified. Each such report shall include such data, findings, materials, and recommendations as the Commissioner may consider appropriate.

“(5) EXTENT OF STATE’S RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL IN ADVANCE OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDMENTS IN SUCH STATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any State in which the amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] have not been fully implemented pursuant to this subsection, the Commissioner shall determine by regulation the extent to which—

“(i) the requirement under section 222(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 422(a)) for prompt referrals to a State agency; and

“(ii) the authority of the Commissioner under section 222(d)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 422(d)(2)) to provide vocational rehabilitation services in such State by agreement or contract with other public or private agencies, organizations, institutions, or individuals, shall apply in such State.

“(B) EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) or the amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall be construed to limit, impede, or otherwise affect any agreement entered into pursuant to section 222(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 422(d)(2)) before the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 17, 1999] with respect to services provided pursuant to such agreement to beneficiaries receiving services under such agreement as of such date, except with respect to services (if any) to be provided after 3 years after the effective date provided in subsection (c).”

TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES ADVISORY PANEL

Pub. L. 106-170, title I, §101(f), Dec. 17, 1999, 113 Stat. 1878, established the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel to advise the President, Congress, and the Social Security Administration on work incentives programs, planning, and assistance for individuals with disabilities and provided for the Panel’s termination 30 days after submission of its final report in December 2007.

§ 1320b-20. Work incentives outreach program

(a) Establishment

(1) In general

The Commissioner, in consultation with the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel established under section 101(f) of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, shall establish a community-based work incentives planning and assistance

program for the purpose of disseminating accurate information to disabled beneficiaries on work incentives programs and issues related to such programs.

(2) Grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and outreach

Under the program established under this section, the Commissioner shall—

(A) establish a competitive program of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to provide benefits planning and assistance, including information on the availability of protection and advocacy services, to disabled beneficiaries, including individuals participating in the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1320b-19 of this title, the program established under section 1382h of this title, and other programs that are designed to encourage disabled beneficiaries to work;

(B) conduct directly, or through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, ongoing outreach efforts to disabled beneficiaries (and to the families of such beneficiaries) who are potentially eligible to participate in Federal or State work incentive programs that are designed to assist disabled beneficiaries to work, including—

(i) preparing and disseminating information explaining such programs; and

(ii) working in cooperation with other Federal, State, and private agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve disabled beneficiaries, and with agencies and organizations that focus on vocational rehabilitation and work-related training and counseling;

(C) establish a corps of trained, accessible, and responsive work incentives specialists within the Social Security Administration who will specialize in disability work incentives under subchapters II and XVI for the purpose of disseminating accurate information with respect to inquiries and issues relating to work incentives to—

(i) disabled beneficiaries;

(ii) benefit applicants under subchapters II and XVI; and

(iii) individuals or entities awarded grants under subparagraphs¹ (A) or (B); and

(D) provide—

(i) training for work incentives specialists and individuals providing planning assistance described in subparagraph (C); and

(ii) technical assistance to organizations and entities that are designed to encourage disabled beneficiaries to return to work.

(3) Coordination with other programs

The responsibilities of the Commissioner established under this section shall be coordinated with other public and private programs that provide information and assistance regarding rehabilitation services and independent living supports and benefits planning for disabled beneficiaries including the program

under section 1382h of this title, the plans for achieving self-support program (PASS), and any other Federal or State work incentives programs that are designed to assist disabled beneficiaries, including educational agencies that provide information and assistance regarding rehabilitation, school-to-work programs, transition services (as defined in, and provided in accordance with, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)), a one-stop delivery system established under section 3151(e) of title 29, and other services.

(b) Conditions

(1) Selection of entities

(A) Application

An entity shall submit an application for a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract to provide benefits planning and assistance to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Commissioner may determine is necessary to meet the requirements of this section.

(B) Statewideness

The Commissioner shall ensure that the planning, assistance, and information described in paragraph (2) shall be available on a statewide basis.

(C) Eligibility of States and private organizations

(i) In general

The Commissioner may award a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this section to a State or a private agency or organization (other than Social Security Administration Field Offices and the State agency administering the State medicaid program under subchapter XIX, including any agency or entity described in clause (ii), that the Commissioner determines is qualified to provide the planning, assistance, and information described in paragraph (2)).

(ii) Agencies and entities described

The agencies and entities described in this clause are the following:

(I) Any public or private agency or organization (including Centers for Independent Living established under title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.), protection and advocacy organizations, client assistance programs established in accordance with section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732), and State Developmental Disabilities Councils established in accordance with section 6024² of this title) that the Commissioner determines satisfies the requirements of this section.

(II) The State agency administering the State program funded under part A of subchapter IV.

(D) Exclusion for conflict of interest

The Commissioner may not award a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under

¹ So in original. Probably should be "subparagraph".

² See References in Text note below.

this section to any entity that the Commissioner determines would have a conflict of interest if the entity were to receive a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this section.

(2) Services provided

A recipient of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract to provide benefits planning and assistance shall select individuals who will act as planners and provide information, guidance, and planning to disabled beneficiaries on the—

(A) availability and interrelation of any Federal or State work incentives programs designed to assist disabled beneficiaries that the individual may be eligible to participate in;

(B) adequacy of any health benefits coverage that may be offered by an employer of the individual and the extent to which other health benefits coverage may be available to the individual; and

(C) availability of protection and advocacy services for disabled beneficiaries and how to access such services.

(3) Amount of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts

(A) Based on population of disabled beneficiaries

Subject to subparagraph (B), the Commissioner shall award a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this section to an entity based on the percentage of the population of the State where the entity is located who are disabled beneficiaries.

(B) Limitations

(i) Per grant

No entity shall receive a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this section for a fiscal year that is less than \$50,000 or more than \$300,000.

(ii) Total amount for all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts

The total amount of all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded under this section for a fiscal year may not exceed \$23,000,000.

(4) Funding

(A) Allocation of costs

The costs of carrying out this section shall be paid from amounts made available for the administration of subchapter II and amounts made available for the administration of subchapter XVI, and shall be allocated among those amounts as appropriate.

(B) Carryover

An amount not in excess of 10 percent of the total amount obligated through a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract awarded under this section for a fiscal year to a State or a private agency or organization shall remain available for obligation to such State or private agency or organization until the end of the succeeding fiscal year. Any such amount remaining available for obligation during such succeeding fiscal year shall be

available for providing benefits planning and assistance only for individuals who are within the caseload of the recipient of the grant, agreement, or contract as of immediately before the beginning of such fiscal year.

(c) Annual report

Each entity awarded a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this section shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner on the benefits planning and assistance provided to individuals under such grant, agreement, or contract.

(d) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Commissioner

The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Social Security.

(2) Disabled beneficiary

The term “disabled beneficiary” means an individual—

(A) who is a disabled beneficiary as defined in section 1320b-19(k)(2) of this title;

(B) who is receiving a cash payment described in section 1382e(a) of this title or a supplementary payment described in section 212(a)(3) of Public Law 93-66 (without regard to whether such payment is paid by the Commissioner pursuant to an agreement under section 1382e(a) of this title or under section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66);

(C) who, pursuant to section 1382h(b) of this title, is considered to be receiving benefits under subchapter XVI of this chapter; or

(D) who is entitled to benefits under part A of subchapter XVIII of this chapter by reason of the penultimate sentence of section 426(b) of this title.

(e) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$23,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2011.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, §1149, as added Pub. L. 106-170, title I, §121, Dec. 17, 1999, 113 Stat. 1887; amended Pub. L. 108-203, title IV, §§404(a)(1), 407(a), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 525, 527; Pub. L. 111-63, §2, Sept. 18, 2009, 123 Stat. 2001; Pub. L. 111-280, §§2(a), 3(a), (b)(1), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2903; Pub. L. 113-128, title V, §512(dd)(3), July 22, 2014, 128 Stat. 1718.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 101(f) of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is section 101(f) of Pub. L. 106-170, which is set out as a note under section 1320b-19 of this title.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), is title VI of Pub. L. 91-230, Apr. 13, 1970, 84 Stat. 175, which is classified generally to chapter 33 (§1400 et seq.) of Title 20, Education. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1400 of Title 20 and Tables.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(C)(ii)(I), is Pub. L. 93-112, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 355. Title VII of the Act is classified generally to subchapter VII (§796 et seq.) of chapter 16 of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 701 of Title 29 and Tables.

Section 6024 of this title, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(C)(ii)(I), was repealed by Pub. L. 106-402, title IV,

§ 401(a), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1737. See section 15025 of this title.

Section 212 of Public Law 93-66, referred to in subsec. (d)(2)(B), is set out as a note under section 1382 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 113-128 substituted “a one-stop delivery system established under section 3151(e) of title 29” for “a one-stop delivery system established under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)”.

2010—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 111-280, § 3(b)(1), substituted “Funding” for “Allocation of costs” in par. (4) heading, designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), inserted subpar. (A) heading, and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-280, § 3(a), added subsec. (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-280, § 3(a), redesignated subsec. (c) as (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (e).

Pub. L. 111-280, § 2(a), substituted “2011” for “2010”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111-280, § 3(a), redesignated subsec. (d) as (e).

2009—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-63 substituted “2010” for “2009”.

2004—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 108-203, § 404(a)(1), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The term ‘disabled beneficiary’ has the meaning given that term in section 1320b-19(k)(2) of this title.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108-203, § 407(a), substituted “2009” for “2004”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 113-128 effective on the first day of the first full program year after July 22, 2014 (July 1, 2015), see section 506 of Pub. L. 113-128, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3101 of Title 29, Labor.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-280, § 3(b)(2), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2904, provided that: “The amendments made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to amounts allotted under section 1149 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1320b-20] for payment for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2010.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-203, title IV, § 404(a)(2), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 526, provided that: “The amendment made by this subsection [amending this section] shall apply with respect to grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Mar. 2, 2004].”

§ 1320b-21. State grants for work incentives assistance to disabled beneficiaries

(a) In general

Subject to subsection (c), the Commissioner may make payments in each State to the protection and advocacy system established pursuant to part C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6041 et seq.)¹ for the purpose of providing services to disabled beneficiaries.

(b) Services provided

Services provided to disabled beneficiaries pursuant to a payment made under this section may include—

- (1) information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services; and

- (2) advocacy or other services that a disabled beneficiary may need to secure, maintain, or regain gainful employment.

(c) Application

In order to receive payments under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall submit an application to the Commissioner, at such time, in such form and manner, and accompanied by such information and assurances as the Commissioner may require.

(d) Amount of payments

(1) In general

Subject to the amount appropriated for a fiscal year for making payments under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall not be paid an amount that is less than—

- (A) in the case of a protection and advocacy system located in a State (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) other than Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the greater of—
 - (i) \$100,000; or
 - (ii) $\frac{1}{3}$ of 1 percent of the amount available for payments under this section; and
- (B) in the case of a protection and advocacy system located in Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, \$50,000.

(2) Inflation adjustment

For each fiscal year in which the total amount appropriated to carry out this section exceeds the total amount appropriated to carry out this section in the preceding fiscal year, the Commissioner shall increase each minimum payment under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) by a percentage equal to the percentage increase in the total amount so appropriated to carry out this section.

(e) Annual report

Each protection and advocacy system that receives a payment under this section shall submit an annual report to the Commissioner and the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel established under section 101(f) of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 on the services provided to individuals by the system.

(f) Funding

(1) Allocation of payments

Payments under this section shall be made from amounts made available for the administration of subchapter II and amounts made available for the administration of subchapter XVI, and shall be allocated among those amounts as appropriate.

(2) Carryover

Any amounts allotted for payment to a protection and advocacy system under this section for a fiscal year shall remain available for payment to or on behalf of the protection and advocacy system until the end of the succeeding fiscal year.

(g) Definitions

In this section:

¹ See References in Text note below.