



## **Ticket- to- Work Program Helps Reemploy Citizens with Disabilities Amidst COVID-19**

**~Services available to persons with disabilities to return to work~**

**TAMPA, FL** – CareerSource Tampa Bay (CSTB) is reaching out to Hillsborough County residents with disabilities to help them regain employment and recover economically.

CSTB and the Social Security Administration’s Ticket-to-Work (TTW) program assists individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64, actively receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash benefits.

“We’re focusing on finding more remote based job opportunities for those with disabilities in our community.

“We’re here to help all of those impacted by COVID-19. There are a number of untapped resources for those in our community with disabilities”, said John Flanagan, CSTB CEO.

The Goal of TTW Program is to help persons with disabilities return to work and earn a self-sufficient wage in a competitive job market.

“Those individuals that are in the Ticket To Work Program feel more independent and have more financial freedom”, said Laura Llera-Pearsall, TTW Disability Program Navigator.

“Working again is also an important part of their recovery. These customers also gain a lot of confidence and self-worth.”

Services offered through the Ticket-to-Work Program Include:

- Work Readiness Determination
- Individual Goal Setting and Work Planning
- Job Search and Professional Placement Assistance
- Resume and Interviewing Workshops
- Skill Development Activities and Career Coaching
- Follow-Up and Support
- Special Support for Veterans with Disabilities

While participating in the TTW Program, individuals can continually receive their SSDI/SSI and Medicare benefits.

Program eligibility is as follows:

- Be between the ages of 18-64
- Having already be receiving SSDI or SSI
- Be self-directed; want to return to work full time
- Each program (SSDI and SSI) offers a variety of work incentives

Individuals interested in applying for the Ticket-to-Work Program can contact our Disability Program Navigator, Laura Llera-Pearsall at (813) 930-7637 or via email at [llera-pearsall@careersourcetampabay.com](mailto:llera-pearsall@careersourcetampabay.com).

For more information on the program, individuals can visit our webpage at <https://www.careersourcetampabay.com/job-seekers/persons-with-disabilities/> or email [TTWinfo@CareerSourceTB.com](mailto:TTWinfo@CareerSourceTB.com)

### **About CareerSource Tampa Bay**

CareerSource Tampa Bay programs and initiatives are fully supported by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture as part of awards totaling \$19,293,411.

CareerSource Tampa Bay works with businesses and candidates to leverage their training, retraining, and competitive opportunities in the workforce. CareerSource Tampa Bay provided 173,319 services to 37,054 active Wagner-Peyser individuals during program year 2019-2020.

CareerSource Tampa Bay, with our five career centers is the single largest source of job candidates in the region from entry-level to executive-level candidates.

Businesses can access CareerSource's wide range of services that include recruiting, training for new and existing employees, targeted hiring events, and retention support strategies. All resources and services are provided at no cost to both businesses and job candidates. Programs funded through CareerSource Tampa Bay are equal opportunity programs with auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Persons using TTY/TTD equipment use Florida Relay Service 711. A proud partner of the American Job Center network to learn more, visit [www.careersourcetampabay.com](http://www.careersourcetampabay.com).