
Breaking News!

Social Security Administration to Begin 3rd Round of National Beneficiary Survey (NBS)

Beginning in February 2006, the Social Security Administration is launching the third round of the National Beneficiary Survey (NBS). The NBS is being conducted annually from 2004-2007 by Mathematica Policy Research, an independent research company. The NBS collects information about SSI and SSDI beneficiaries. The data will be combined with Social Security Administration administrative data to provide critical information on access to jobs and employment outcomes for disability beneficiaries, including those who participate in the Ticket to Work Program as well as those who do not.

What does this mean for Ticket-holders and other Social Security beneficiaries?

- Mathematica Policy Research will send an advance letter to selected beneficiaries before the interview to explain the purpose of the survey, offer assurance of confidentiality, and include the toll-free number for beneficiaries to call with questions.
- All information collected will be strictly confidential and not be reported in any way that identifies survey respondents or used by the Social Security Administration to determine the continuing eligibility for disability benefits.
- The questionnaire will take approximately 45-60 minutes. To promote response among the Hispanic population, the questionnaire will be available in Spanish.
- Participants will receive a check for \$10.00 as a token of appreciation for completing the interview.
- If there are questions regarding the survey or the identity of an interviewer, please have the beneficiary contact **Mathematica Policy Research at 1-877-293-5740**.

What does this mean for Employment Networks?

- Survey data will be used by the Social Security Administration for policymaking, program planning and improvement.
- Independent nationally representative samples of beneficiaries will be selected and interviewed. Therefore, some of your Ticket to Work clients may have already been contacted and/or will be in the future.
- The results from round one of data collection will be included in the upcoming Third Evaluation Report of the Ticket to Work Program. Additional reports are planned for 2007 and 2008. A public use NBS file for round one is expected to be complete in early 2006. The final combined data and documentation including all four survey rounds will be completed in the summer of 2008.
- This survey is important. If a beneficiary asks you about it, please encourage them to participate.

MAXIMUS will refer all inquiries to the number above or to the Social Security Administration Web site at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/survey.html> for additional information.