

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Friday, January 29, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

**From: Amy Hall, Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**Subject: CMS Releases Guidance Regarding Receipt of Federal Funds under the
Ticket to Work Program**

As part of the Community Living Initiative, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a State Medicaid Director letter providing guidance related to receipt of Federal funds under the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program (Ticket to Work program) and encouraging utilization of the flexible funding the program offers. The purpose of the Ticket to Work program is to expand the universe of service providers available to individuals who are entitled to Social Security benefits based on disability or eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits based on disability or blindness. This program can help individuals obtain the services necessary to find, enter and retain employment.

By way of background, on June 22, 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services commemorated the 10th anniversary of the *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision with the announcement that 2009 would be the "Year of Community Living." To begin this "Year of Community Living," HHS agencies were tasked with aggressively addressing barriers that prevent some Americans with disabilities from enjoying a meaningful life as part of their community. We hope this letter will help encourage utilization of Ticket to Work program funding.

The State Medicaid Directors letter can be viewed at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SMDL/SMD/list.asp#TopOfPages>

If you have questions about this guidance, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Thank you.