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THE *SKILLSOURCE* GROUP, INC. ANNOUNCES CONTRACT WITH SOCIAL SECURITY FOR TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc., the non-profit arm of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board, announces a new contract with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to serve as an Employment Network for the SSA Ticket To Work Program. The Ticket To Work initiative is a Federal-local effort to assist and support adults receiving Social Security Disability payments to transition into employment within an occupation of their choice. For the Ticket to Work Program, *SkillSource* is eligible to serve residents of Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The Ticket To Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is the centerpiece of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. This program provides Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities more choices for receiving employment services. Through this Program, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issues Tickets to eligible beneficiaries who, in turn, may assign those Tickets to an Employment Network (EN) of their choice to obtain employment services, vocational rehabilitation services and other support services necessary to maximize their economic self-sufficiency through employment. *SkillSource* intends to serve adults in all disability or impairment groups.

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. Coordinator of the Ticket To Work Program in the Northern Virginia Workforce Area is Ms. Lauren Parker. Ms. Parker can be reached toll free at 1-877-545-1462, locally at (703) 752-1606 or by email at Lauren.parker@myskillsource.org.

The *SkillSource* Group, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board represents more than 20,000 businesses and over 1.9 million residents within the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William and the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. For more information, please visit www.myskillsource.org.

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