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Hello everyone and welcome. Thank you for joining us today for our webinar on strategies for funding and able account. This is our February webinar and my name is Miranda Kennedy. I am director of the able national resource center. For those of you not familiar with the able national resource center, this may be your first call joining us and others may have joined on many more and we welcome you back. But those of you who are new to able national resource center, is a collaborative who supporters share a goal of accelerating the design and availability of able accounts for benefit of individuals with disabilities and their families. We'll pregnant together the investment support and resources from the country’s most influential and largest disability organizations. You can check our resource Center website at www.ableNRC.org. We are excited to share the information today. We have a number of strategies and hope you will come away with additional ideas about how to fund your able account. Before we do all of that, I'm going to hand it over to my colleague Maggie Redden who will walk us through some slides about the webinar. Maggie, take it away.

Hello everybody.

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Submitting questions, for any Q&A you have, please use a Q&A box to submit the questions you have during webinar and we will direct the questions accordingly. If your question is not answered during the webinar or you are listing by phone and not logged in, you may email me, excuse me, you may email info at Abel and RC.org. If you have any technical assistance, you can use the chat box to send a message to the NDI admin or you may email me, please note that this webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on the able national resource center website along with all of our able webinars. With that, I will turn it back over to Brenda.

Thank you, Maggie we have our presenters. I am Miranda Kennedy, I am the director of the ABLE National Resource Center for will facilitate the presentation and I'm pleased to have our presenters. We have Marlene Ulisky is retired from the Social Security Administration after a 35-year career. She was one of 56 were consent of court knitters from across the country who develop expertise in SSA implement support programs. After retirement, she is certified as a community partner through Virginia Commonwealth University. She worked for the Florida office of vocational rehabilitation as a consultant to establish the partnership plus program under the ticket to work legislation alone. She manages critical integrity workloads. She works as a disability consultant for the state of Florida and private individuals. At national disability Institute, she is a manager on the technical assistance team and a disability benefits coordinator with the ABLE national resource center. I think we are in very good hands with a subject matter expert here today. And we will be joined by Hector Ramirez, one of our 2019 ABLE national resource center ambassadors living in California who is a CalABLE account owner. He is on the Board of Directors for the disability rights of Northern California. We will be hearing from Hector at the end of our presentation today about the various strategies that we are reviewing and which of the strategies he is utilizing to fund his ABLE account. And -he's using a number of strategies. Not just one.

Will open up to you from our other ambassadors and advisors. We have least to those, thank you for joining us, who are also ABLE account owners. We want to hear about their strategies because a strategist we covered today present opportunities for ABLE account owners to make the most out of funding for your ABLE account.

Let's go to the next slide. Our agenda for today, the first thing will be covering his ABLE basics. But it will be very quick. We are doing to make sure we are on the same page for those of you who note, grab a very quick cup of coffee. For those don't have a background, will give you resources of about ABLE basics. We don't want to leave you behind of this is your first presentation. Although today's topic will be a deep dive into very specific strategies to fund an ABLE account. If you want broad information, you have a couple of slides and resources to direct you to where you need to go for that. For everyone else who could give a presentation on this call, thank you for your patience as we make sure we keep everyone on the same page and not losing anyone or leave them behind. After we cover that, we will be talking about identifying potential sources of savings. First party contributions, third-party contributions and the ins and outs of that and funding strategies. Then we will get into, as I mentioned before, are examples from our real-life ABLE account owners. We'll share resources and updates on upcoming events that you will want to join us on with the ABLE national resource center and open it for questions is.

Without the, let's go to the next light. Here I am sharing with you the roadmap to ABLE. I'm sharing the roadmap; this is a great resource. This is perhaps your first introduction table. We are giving this information on the roadmap. It is on her website; you have the links to access it. But if you go on our website you will see the roadmap to -it will give you five steps with 3-5 minute videos for those steps and directions around what is ABLE, who is eligible? How can funds be used, how do I manage my account and finally, how do I enroll? This step will help you get to enrollment of an ABLE account. The next slide is after you become an ABLE account owner, how do you maximize that? That is what we are talking about here today to fund your ABLE account. But the steps from the roadmap to independence around setting your financial goals, building that circle of support, making smart financial decisions, monitoring your ABLE account and finally, celebrating your financial independence. And the links we have your will take you to a fact sheet and roadmap. This information is available in Spanish.

With that, the next two slides really juice- give us an overview of what is an ABLE account and why the need for an ABLE account. What is an ABLE account? ABLE accounts are section 529 a tax-free saving accounts that are owned by person who has a qualifying disability. With an age of onset before 26. Where that person, either received supplemental security income and/or SSI, social disability insurance benefits or if they do not receive that SSDI or SSI benefits, if they have disability certification from a licensed physician, an M.D. or D.O., medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic that indicates a qualifying physical or mental disability or blindness which is marked in severe functional limitations that have lasted or at least expected to last in 12 continuous months and results in death. The other piece to know is that some state ABLE programs have formed partnerships to improve access for eligible individuals to enroll and to lower program costs. There are a number of individual state programs as well. I'm mentioning this piece about the alliances and partnerships because you can see different types of arrangements between states that are administering these programs and should be aware of that. And upcoming webinars I will mention this at the end of today, we will be showcasing some of these partnerships and alliances as well as some of the individual state programs. Our next webinar in March is actually highlighting the national ABLE alliance. And the ins and outs of the work they are doing. This includes details and information on the features and fees and investment options, things along those lines. You want to tune into that. >> Here is a link that you can use to compare the different state ABLE programs and other services of the ABLE national resource center. So, why the need for ABLE accounts? You may be very familiar with this. You have a need for an ABLE account. But there are millions of individuals with disabilities and their families depend on a variety of public benefits for income, for healthcare, for food and housing assistance. And with ABLE, for the first time in public policy, it is recognizing that there is an extra and significant cost of living with a disability. So, this is being eligible individuals and their families can establish ABLE savings accounts that will largely not affect their eligibility for a federally funded, means tested benefits. The funds in and enable account are meant to supplement but not to supplant, not to take place of benefits provided by private insurance, Medicaid, SSI and the beneficiaries employment and other sources. So, why safe in an ABLE account? If we go to the next slide, there is a resource limit of $2000 for most means tested benefits. And an ABLE account you can maintain eligibility for SSI, supplemental security income, Medicaid and other public benefits. And your savings can grow you can choose from multiple different investment options, they can go from conservative to aggressive depending on your needs. We will learn more about this next month as we start sharing this and some of our highlights from different partnerships around us.

There are ABLE account tax advantages as well. The income in those accounts, while it is post-tax dollars that go into and ABLE account, they grow tax-free. So, you may qualify for tax credits for saving as well. There are benefits to this and it provides for a more secure financial future.

And now, these who you see in front of you are our 2019 ABLE account owners national resource ambassadors. We'll parents and working age individuals as well. They are very diverse as their savings goals. You will mourn about them through upcoming webinars and newsletters and highlights on them. Just to go to our ABLE advisors, they are saving from a range of different things, from medical school, durable medical equipment, communications devices, housing expenses, accessible vehicles, putting a down payment on a home and someone is putting down, their goal is to purchase a house with a backyard for their dog. Additionally, saving for a toddler, son, and maintain a safety net while working to be self-sufficient. To pay for an adult son full share of in kind support and maintenance expenses to maximize the monthly SSI payout and to save for retirement. There is a wide range of different goals that individuals are saving for.

I will have handed over to Marlene to share ways to identify potential sources of savings. Marlene?

You may be on mute.

Okay, thank you for can you hear me now?

I can hear you now.

In this section we will talk about savings and saving goals and strategies for contributions into your ABLE account. If you're listening right now and you’re thinking, great, it sounds really great. But, is really not a possibility for you, I encourage you to listen a little bit longer and pick up some tips from us on how you can become and start saving by making small changes in your life or biting some of the recommendations we provide throughout the webinar. Also, by reaching out to a circle of support. We'll talk about that a little later on what is a circle of support and how you can reach out to a circle of support.

Eyeglass I defy your need for savings, before we talk about the potential sources of savings, we need to talk about identifying your need for savings. Like why do we save? When we think about it, do we say because we have a goal? And, it could be a short-term goal or it may be a longer-term goal. The short-term goal is one which takes less than a year of savings, it may be something like saving for simple dental work that may not be covered by your insurance or your Medicaid. Or saving for an emergency. I actually just, just as we, I experienced depleting my savings in my emergency account. I know how important it is because

 the other day I did not have any hot water. When I checked my water heater, I saw it was leaking and was about 14 years old and it was hissing a little bit and the pressure relief valve was making a weird gurgling noise perky know the end of the story. I needed to replace it but I did have money in my emergency savings. That is always important to have. A longer-term goal would be something that takes a little longer to achieve, generally, over year for could be something like saving to replace your vehicle which may be in disrepair. Or saving for extensive dental work or perhaps

 saving for a home or for a vehicle. If you want to dig deeper and read about goals and goal setting, there is a lot of information on the ABLE national resource center website or our parent company, the national disability Institute. There is a lot of information there. I encourage you to check it out. When you visited, there is a great Visio on setting financial goals and I encourage you to take a look at that one.

When you identify your need to save, it is important to do know the difference between a need and a want. A cook way of thinking about it is a need may be something that is critical to your survival. It could be food, shelter, clothing water, perhaps healthcare and a want to something extra that you really don't need to survive but you wanted for other reasons. It could be something like designer clothing, sometimes you will hear someone talk about medical services

 or getting a second home or second vehicle. Now, why am I telling you this at the very beginning? You need to know the difference between a need and I want. When you decide how much money you have available to save, you will going to be looking at your income, you will look at your expenses and you actually need to distinguish between the 2 so you can be clear on whether something can be eliminated in order for you to say. Many people talk about wanting this or that but they never actually tried to make it happen. But, you actually can make it happen. And in line with making things happen, when you identify your need for savings, it is always important to consider whether there are other public benefit programs I could cover your needs. Second -back in December, we did a webinar on qualify disability expenses. We talked about the expenses that would be covered by other public benefits programs. We talked about them so you would be where the programs and fund the items and services so that you would not use the funds in your ABLE account and you can often provide savings in ABLE. Some programs could include vocational rehabilitation, it could be an American job center, employment network, work legislation, it could have been Medicaid, Medicare, Medicaid waiver services or perhaps, your state assisted technology Center. If you like to spar those, go to our website. That webinar is archived. Or you can go to our will website and attorney Jim Shelton has that webinar series. There is a whole lot of information with that resource.

Now that you have considered others sources of funding and perhaps, if you cannot find a source of funding for what you need, you need to investigate the cost of the item or service, develop a budget and a spending and savings plan. That will allow you to identify your monthly income, your benefits, if you are employed, your employment earnings and other sources of income. It will allow you to look at your expensive for that month to see what's left for savings. Member to keep in mind, needs versus wants, and know that your goals will change over time.

When youth think about your goals, in creating a savings plan, always remember you are unique . One size may not fit all. In prior webinars, we talked about qualify disability expenses, we also said one size may not fit all because the qualify disability expense for one person may not be a qualify disability expense for another person because that expense for one person may be tied to assistive disability or specific needs of their life. You want your ABLE account to supplement other tools you have in place and the tools can include special needs or a disability annuity or other type of payments or savings or supports that you have in place. As we said, ABLE savings can supplement benefits provided through other programs . For example, if you are working with state VR and help you to find a job and they are providing

 you with limited job coaching but you are not on the Medicaid waiver, you can use ABLE savings to fund additional job coaching sessions, if needed, over and above what the Army fun. Once you have established your budget and your income, you designed your expenses and you have your goal, is a good time to begin savings in your ABLE account. We say some of the tips a little at a time because every little bit counts. Be mindful of your spending habits and your needs versus your wants. Bargain with yourself, perhaps if you need a savings goal for several months in a role, you can reward yourself with something affordable that you really want like a manicure or a dinner out or a movie or something that you really enjoy. Another tip is to hold on to unexpected windfalls. Save all or part of that lottery winning that you are lucky enough to win. I am not. Hold on to unexpected gifts or even save some back pay from the Social Security administration. And, if you are working, say through payroll deductions in your ABLE account. That is one of the easiest and best way to say because it goes directly into your ABLE account before you miss it or you can be tempted to spend it. So, without, Miranda, I will turn it back to you to talk about identifying the potential for sources of income for an ABLE account. Miranda?

Great, thank you so much. When you're just talking about that, one of the features with ABLE is a great opportunity whereas before, especially with folks who receive means tested benefits, if you came into that Windfall or settlement or back pay or whatever it might’ve been, what would you have to do with that, Marlene?

 Back before ABLE?

Well, back before ABLE, you would have to spend it. There is that $2000 resource limit and that resource limit is still in place. If you wanted to place that into a regular savings account or checking account or not spend it. You were very limited but ABLE has really expanded savings opportunities.

That is so great so you're not in the position of being like I have money. This is a nest egg for a rainy day or when the water here goes up. But, oh no, I have to spend it right now. This is an opportunity to not be in that position anymore. Right Marlene?

Yes, definitely work. Take you for a little sidebar on that. That was an important point to make. It probably resonates with most of the folks who are listening in with us, I would think. In terms of identifying potential sources of income for and ABLE account. It is so broad and this is wonderful. Really, anyone can make a contribution into an ABLE account. By anyone, we consider special needs trusts and estates and others as part of anyone. As well as, obviously, the individual with a disability themselves be ABLE to contribute to the account. The family members, their friends, their employer can contribute to an ABLE account. It is very broad and open in that regard and that’s not the case with all accounts that can support people with disabilities. So, there is a lot of flexibility there. The thing to keep in mind is that there is that total annual contribution limit. It may not exceed the federal gift tax contribution limit and that is currently $15,000. You can put more than $15,000 into your account over the course of the year. If you put $15,000 in and you spend $5000 of it, you can put another $5000 in right Marlene?

That's right.

Alright good things to keep in mind. That is a frequent question we get asked. The other thing to keep in mind and Marlene will cup that’s my cover this in more depth. In employed individual with a disability can contribute more above that $15,000 of their own earnings. That aligns with the federal poverty limit for a household of one. Marlene will cover that in depth but that allows some more flexibility. This year is $12,140 could go into that ABLE account. Those of are ABLE account owners who are saving for retirement or other things along those lines, that is an opportunity to grow the amount in the ABLE account. Total lifetime contributions? They may not exceed the state limit for 529 college savings accounts so it will be key to look into that piece as well so you know how high you can go and really the goal is to start saving now because we know savings grow exponentially and especially if you are in those investment options, you want to start putting away and you can now with ABLE. So with that I will go ahead and handed over to Marlene to tell us about beneficiary contributions.

Thank you, Miranda. We will be going into most of the things you cover a little more in depth as the presentation unfolds. You will learn the Low Moor. Is not just a brief information provided on the last slide, there will be more details. On the slide, it is discussing beneficiary contributions. What we are talking about is obviously, contributions by the ABLE account owner. Now, if you are not receiving a disability based benefit from Social Security, you still can open and contribute an ABLE account into an ABLE account, if you make the requirements for opening an ABLE account such as your disability began before the age of 26, he had a marked and severe impairment and so on. As Miranda talked about earlier in the presentation. If you are not on benefits, receiving benefits or whatever disposable income you have, feel free to deposit into your ABLE account because it will continue to grow tax-free. Now, if you're receiving, however a means tested disability benefit from Social Security, talking about SSI or supplemental security, savings, earnings or other income deposited into the ABLE account is still counted as income. Nothing has changed for how Social Security counts earned and unearned income. This must be one of our top questions that comes into the ABLE National Resource Center because the first believe is they contribute earnings for other thing that’s makes other unearned income such as alimony, child support payments, pension and annuities, be a contribution and so on, it does not count. And that is untrue. It still counts. So, nothing is changed. Finally, direct deposit cannot be used to avoid income counting rules. Some folks have actually written into the ABLE National Resource Center and say, hey, if I my employer directly deposit my earnings into my ABLE account, it won't count? Right? That is incorrect, everything still counts the same. There is no change in the income counting rules that the Social Security Administration has in place. It is important to familiarize yourself with those rules. At the end of the presentation, there is a resource for you to find a benefits counselor. If you are a working individual or you are thinking about working, there is a resource with a link that you can find a free service for gaining information you need to make good choices. Again, continuing on with beneficiary contributions, when the SSI program or SNAP, that's a food stamp program, or Medicaid, they look at savings you have accumulated in your ABLE account and that is your savings plus the gross, they do not count the first $100,000. They disregard that whole lump sum, the whole $100,000. That's a huge step forward because as Miranda was asking earlier, it is a step forward because one ABLE, before ABLE was enacted, there was that that $2000 resource limit. Right now, if that money is saved in an ABLE account and that's a special type of account, I 529A account, it is disregarded up to that $100,000 limit. When that balance exceeds $100,000, alone or in combination with other resources, the SSI payment is temporarily suspended but Medicaid continues. So, again, I'm saying the first 100,000 in ABLE is totally disregarded and

there is no time limit to remain in the suspended status. Once you drop under again, Social Security restarts a payment.

Now, the $100,000 level or limit is not something that will occur anytime soon because the ABLE act was enacted in December 2014. No account given the $15,000 contribution limit every year and it was a little bit lower than that a year before last. No count will be approaching that level for a while. So, if you’re receiving means tested benefits, it is something you need to know for the future. Now, if none ABLE resources go over the SSI resource limit, the special suspension does not apply. What is that saying, if you have a $2000 in a non-able account, say savings account or a checking account or a cash on hand, this special suspension status does not apply. In the world of Social Security, if you remain in that status for 12 months and you are in that suspended status, your SSI and Medicaid would be terminated. It would be suspended; it would be terminated. That's a little different.

 I should have included it on the slide that there is no resource limit if you receive SSDI, Social Security disability insurance benefits because it is an entitlement program. You can have up to your state 529 limit. You will not affect the SSDI payment and those 529 limits range from about $100,000, that is a new number two over $500,000. That's a big range.

Before we jump into the ABLE to work act, I want to take a moment to talk about beneficiaries who actually worked. And, there are a lot of beneficiaries out there who receive SSDI benefits or SSI benefits and they don’t know they can work and still receive their monthly payments or their Medicare or their Medicaid when they know the rules. And also if that’s their choice. If they don’t want to become self-sufficient, they want to supplement their benefits, they can do whatever is best for them. So, Social Security actually encourages work and that's what I did in my past life before I retired from Social Security. I was a specialist in their employment support program like the ticket to work program. So, folks can use if they are using to work, they can use the program, the plan to achieve self-support to Optimizer savings. Next month, on March 27, I'm presenting on the wise, a work incentive seminar, a government contractor for the ticket to work program. We'll be talk about ABLE on that webinar. The focus will be on the ticket to work program and savings. If you want to go to that webinar, it is at www.choosework.ssa.gov and register. It's a free webinar. The ABLE to work act is another piece that provides another incentive for ABLE beneficiaries to choose to work and who choose to say. This provision was actually passed as a part of a tax cut and jobs act of 2017. It will allow certain accounts, ABLE account holders to work and contribute to their ABLE account above, beyond the $15,000 contribution limit. When I say certain, what I mean is that a beneficiary is not eligible to make the additional contribution if they have or if the employer contributes into a workplace retirement plan on their behalf. Some of the examples are shown on your screen like a 401-A, a 403 letter an or B plan. Those are examples of them. Now, if the beneficiary is working and they don't have the employer-sponsored retirement plan like shown on the prior slide, the ABLE account holder owner rather can contribute money into the ABLE account from whichever is left. He can be there gross earnings for that taxable year or in the 48 contiguous state, as Miranda said, or in Alaska and Hawaii, $15,600 in Alaska or $14,380 and Hawaii and that is based upon the federal poverty level for a household of one in the 48 contiguous, in the United States or a household of one for the year prior to when the contribution was made. That is a mouthful. Last year, we actually had an ABLE advisor who was an attorney. He doesn’t have employer-sponsored retirement plan. He is not receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration and he does have a significant disability. In his case he was using his ABLE account much like a retirement account. For him, is a decision because his contributions were growing tax-free. And he has a goal and he is working to achieving that goal. It is always important to we said if someone is receiving benefits, earnings from working, you are still the same as earned income as substantial activity and they take into consideration, when determining eligibility coffers in public benefits. And guidance from the U.S. Department of treasury is expected. Now, that is a lot of information packed into these couple of slides. So, in essence, the ABLE to work provision allows certain accounts to save up to $27,140 or even more if they live in Alaska or Hawaii. That is a lot of savings and again, it grows tax-free. Miranda? I will turn it back over to you to talk about accounts and contributions and take it away.

Great, thank you, Marlene. Let's talk about identifying first party contributions. I don't mean to be a broken record here. This bullet point, you've heard this before. You absolutely can put earnings from work or self-employment income and bonuses into an ABLE account. Just to be very clear about that, ABLE is not an income shelter. It will impact your benefits in terms of your earnings and years. It seems like an important point to hit right here. We have this bullet point on this slide. Keep that in mind, okay? Certainly, for those folks who are not on these events, that will apply, will be up problem for folks. They are not on means tested benefits, you will not be worried about that. For those of you who are, keep that in mind, work with the benefits of visor and you can do that. You have to be aware of the implications and the impact of that. So, you can also, in terms of first party contributions, put in Social Security or lump-sum retroactive payments. Your VA benefits, money from pensions or alimony, again, those are things you need to be keeping in mind in evaluating if they impact your benefits but, you can put that into your ABLE account, disability insurance benefits, SSI benefits, income tax refunds can be put into this including refunds due to tax credits. Those are opportunities

 and places you can pull from that our first party contributions from the individual himself. Is there anything else you would add to that, Marlene, before you start talking about earned income tax credits? Or do you think that is important to reiterate?

I don't think so, I think we will, we will talk more about other types of contributions like a special needs trust contributing into an ABLE account and will talk about others depositing money into an ABLE account like the third parties.

Great, thank you. I understand you’ll tell us about earned income tax credits right now.

Now that it is tax time, it was probably turn to talk about the earned income tax credit because it is tax time. We'll talk about another credit, also, in a future slide. The earned income tax credit is a tax credit for low to moderate income workers and, the IRS website actually gives you the income limits if you're running to know what those are and they vary according to your marital status and the number of children in your household. Now, to qualify for the earned income tax credit, you can be married or single. If you are, if you do not children, you must between the ages of 25 and 64 or you have children, between the ages of 18 and 64. If you have earnings from work and you filed for the and qualify for the earned income tax credit, you can receive this tax year and texture 2018, up to $6431. That is a lot of money that you can do something with and perhaps deposit some of that into your ABLE accounts for your financial future. The maximum tax credits for earned income tax credits for tax year 2016 and 2017 are shown on your screen. If you qualify for the earned income tax credit, and you have one child, you may be ABLE to claim other child related tax credits. Because of the length of the webinar and the limited time, we won't go into those but no they are available. If you're interested in this tax credit, the IRS website contains an earned income tax credit assistant and I hope you to determine your eligibility and actually calculate the tax credit. >> On the slide we will talk a bit about the savers credit and since we’re talking about tax credits and I don’t think there's a better time to talk about these savings because not only is it the focus of the webinar, I wanted to give a shout out to America saves. It is America saves week. It focuses on us increasing our savings rate. The FDIC, the Social Security administration, thousands of banks and credit unions across the country joined the national disability Institute in supporting the initiative. You are encouraged to identify savings goals and create your plan to achieve. So, without, the formal name for the savers credit is the retirement savings contributions credit. It is a tax credit as an incentive for low to moderate income taxpayers who make contributions into a retirement account. It will give the taxpayer a credit which can be deducted by taxes. The new law extends a credit to ABLE account owners to contribute to their own ABLE accounts and they need other criteria to be eligible for the savers credit as shown as your screen for age 18 or older, not a full-time student and not claimed as a dependent on another person’s tax return. The adjusted gross income limit to qualify for the savers credit in 2018 was 35,500, for single filer. And $62,000 for a married couple filing jointly. This slide

 provide you with additional information on the savers credit and because of time, I will not go through all of these but I encourage you to download our slides and read over these in your spare time. These will be the webinar -the webinar will be archived on our website along with the slides. If you would like to review that later, please feel free.

Weird going to talk about their party contributions. We talked a lot about the ABLE account owner contributing but we did not talk about contributions made by others, other than that account owner. It is important to understand when someone receives a means tested benefit, in general, when money is given to that individual, it is counted as income. Is important we talk about third party contributions is the fact that these contributions do not count as income. It's important to remember that if the funds cannot be- they cannot belong to or be due to that beneficiary. Third-party someone other than the ABLE account older. We talked about a third party, any person can contribute to an ABLE account and other IRS policies, a special needs trust is defined as a person, last month we talked about that on a webinar we had on special needs trusts and I encourage you to listen to that webinar. A transfer of funds from a trust to an ABLE account is where the SSI recipient is the designated beneficiary and the designated beneficiary does not loan the trust and the trust is not a resource to him or her the contribution is made by the trustee. In addition to a special needs trust being a person in the eyes of the IRS, that definition also includes a partnership, an association, an employer, and a Corporation. With that, I think Brenda, I think I will turn it back to you to discuss some of the other ways third parties can contribute or who are third parties?

Great, thank you Marlene. We will make worker this we definitely want to get to Hector and our other advisors. Identifying contributions from third parties, this is someone other than the individual ABLE account owner. This can be contributions from family or friends, contributions from an employer, also the ABLE financial planning act allows 529 rollovers from a family members ABLE account, a rollover for my college savings account into the ABLE account owners ABLE account, the 520 9A account. We certainly have had, among our advisors, individuals have done that and that could be an effective strategy. Keep that in mind that the 529 rollover opportunity. I know folks who are funding their ABLE account entirely from a 529 account they set up. You can also be, as Marlene mentioned,

 distributions from a special needs or pooled trust feeding into that ABLE

 account. Keep in mind those limits because some of that is, if you’re getting a huge inheritance, you will want to have a special needs trust or they could be another avenue for that. Also, the gift of independence, what that is it is a gift card and we will sure that resource and links to how you to get that gift card offer website and dominations from $20 up to $200. You get a family or friends contribute using a gift of independence card it goes into your ABLE account. And other gifts from birthday, holidays and milestone events. They can put in that ABLE account. It wasn't the case in the past. What are other saving strategies? Let's go to the next slide. Reaching out to a circle of support or others. The sure to reach out to a circle of support or people who want to support your orifice a family member who is the ABLE account, your family member in building a better financial future. And helping to meet those financial goals you set. Those circles of support to be family, friends, a supports coordinator, clergy, an employer or others. And the support coordinators, that is generally a service provided by Medicaid waiver provider we can reach out to your protection advocacy group in your state to get support around that if that is the support you need. If you don't have a circle of support and have a difficult time managing her money despite efforts to track and regulate that spending, consider asking a family member, friend or professional to appear their finances and know when to get help. And, as always, be cautious when sharing financial information with individuals you do not know well or those you’ve only known for short period of time. Marlene, can you tell us about some of find contributions?

I jumped forward a little too quick. There are number strategies. We recommend several types of contributions to your ABLE account. One of them is making systematic deposits into your ABLE account, perhaps we receive your paycheck or if you're not working, when you receive your disability payment on the first of the month or the third of the month or Wednesday, organize your finances, pay your bills, pay your expenses and include ABLE as one of those expenses. And, this helps you not miss it. You can manually contribute into your ABLE account in which you make deposits and one of the other methods is using the automated methods you contributed. You can use electronic funds transfer. You can use payroll deductions we talked about a little earlier. Or, you can ask family or friends to make a contribution, a gift contribution to your account, either online or the newest way to get to contribute, it is the gift of independence. It is a gift card which allows your friends, families to contribute from $25 up to $200 for the purchase of a gift card. Once you purchase a gift card, to redeem it, it can only be redeemed for deposit into your ABLE account, you would visit www.giftofcollege.com. That website, even though it is named gift of college, it is a gift card for deposit into your ABLE account. It is simple to do. I've been looking at it again this morning when I purchased the gift card. You would click on the redeem button, you would register and create your profile much like you would with other websites and enter the information to make the card linked to your ABLE account. It simple and is a nice way to gift someone or to remember someone on a special occasion.

Some of the other things to consider, learn and explore include these, compare state ABLE programs along with the cost to find the programs which best suit your needs so you can enhance your savings opportunities

 while still meeting your goals. Just know that many of the state programs have different fees. There may be maintenance fees or monthly fees or a fee for a paper statement versus electronic and so on. Remember, your situation is unique, your needs and goals are unique, talk to people you trust ask questions and ask for help when needed and reach out to your supporters.

Learned about ABLE account rules for contributions. In this month there is a lot of information on her website. These feel free to explore that, to learn more about ABLE. Also, explore the free professional tax help available. Instead of doing a tax return on your own where you may miss something, you may miss a tax credit or miss the earned income tax credit, why not get free, professional tax help? And, finally, explore the national disability Institute financial education toolkit. There is a lot of great information on budgeting, establishing a spending diary, benefits, or reference guides to financial education at her website. Now, with that, Miranda, I am going to turn it back over to you to address or clarify some of the things I covered and to talk to our ambassadors.

I think we will just, let's check in with Hector, if we can unmute Hector's line, he's one of our 2019 ABLE-NRC ambassadors. He's using multiple strategies. Can you share with every one the strategies you are using to put funds into your ABLE account? Yes, good day and hello everybody. I'm excited to be able to join this group to talk about the ABLE accounts. I am an ambassador this year. One of the ways I decided to help fund my ABLE account, I was working and adding to it. I reach out to my large family. I always get gift cards or little amounts of money and I never been able to hold on to it. For this year, I'm glad I have an option and this year I will utilize my ABLE account program by asking my friends to contribute to the Gift of Independence. My mom is giving me a gift card. And then I'm going to be adding them into my account. As Miranda mentioned, mine is to create a safety net. I have significant safety net I can utilize. So, I am able to continue work and be ABLE to maintain my independence.

 I have wonderful ideas about what people can do with her ABLE accounts. I want to have a bigger goal, as a person with a disability, as you get older, the likelihood of being homeless goes every year and hearing that people with disabilities can now save to be homeowners gives me hope. Hopefully, I will be able to have that and that will be my goal later on. For this year, it will be used for the Gift of Independence. I’m really excited to try it out.

 >> We have lost Hector.

That's it, that's what I was going to say. Great, thank you so much Hector. I thought you were cut off. Thank you for sharing the strategies you are using. And happy birthday, a little early. You have March 15th as your birthday. We won't sing you happy birthday right now. Okay. Thanks Hector. Going to take a moment. We also have Katie on.

Hello everybody. I echo a lot of what Hector said in terms of my strategies. I am primarily funding my ABLE account through my own wages which, as Marlene talks about, I have to report to Medicaid because I received, I am no longer on SSI, I am on the Medicaid buy-in program. I have to report those wages. The ABLE accounts provides me a place to retain them, long-term, and not to spend them for the sake of getting rid of them to be under the resource limit. Primarily, I’m finding it myself. I also have had some contributions from my husband as well as my parents, I have not had an opportunity to use the gift of independence gift cards yet because that program was just announced at the end of last year, around Christmas time. I am excited about it. I'm planning to see, excuse me, I'm planning to see how it works out. I'm planning to use it in the next couple of months. Because, I prefer to make my contributions in as much of a lump sum as I can do to resource limits. But, I prefer to do it at the beginning of the year, after I’ve done my taxes, so I know what my tax liability is or what my upcoming expenses are for that year. And then, deposit the excess into my ABLE account and still have it available for my day-to-day living expenses if unexpected things come up. Those are the two main strategies I'm using.

Great, thank you so much for sharing, Katie. We have more, Shane, I know is fairly straightforward what you're doing. You are not on means tested benefits, could you talk and share how your funding your ABLE account?

Yeah, absolutely. So, I am somebody who is working who is also blind. I'm just contributing directly at the beginning of the year. I put a lump sum contribution in and that's pretty much that. I will be using a combination of direct contributions and rollovers from a 529 account. Basically, what I do is contribute $12,000 into an ABLE account and $3000 into a 529. Minnesota allows a deduction for 529 accounts but not ABLE accounts. I'm in the withdrawal phase of my ABLE account, when I’m closer to retirement, I will those funds back into the ABLE account.

 That is a benefit to you. I think is important for everybody to examine your situation. You can find out the opportunities like Shane did to maximize what you will have in your ABLE account and Shane, you don't have, you can’t go with the ABLE to work piece because you do have an employer funded retirement account, right? That's right. I could if that's back if I.

Thank you for three ABLE account owners who share their strategies. We are at the top of the hour. We want to share the different resources. We hope you download today's presentation and you'll check out these resources we reference. I think we reference all of these resources on the next couple of slides. The resource center itself, our case summary series and how to make smart financial decisions, the building of support strategies to do that, how to find a certified benefits counselor or community work incentives coordinator, that’s an important link if you are working or contributing to your ABLE account. Check the resource out. How to purchase a gift of independence card or share the links with the others? That is the resource you have right there. On the next slide, we have RS resources. To learn about, and this lead up to tax time, free tax preparation services. You can visit or call the volunteer income tax assistance sites or call them at

 1-800-906-9887. You can go to my free taxes.com and there's a good Association of retired persons, Arp, tax a site locator. There is also information from the IRS around earned income

 tax credits, ABLE accounts, tax benefits for people with disabilities, tax reform which allows people disabilities people -- more money into accounts. Please, help spread the word to others

 and share information about ABLE accounts with their friends and families and comedian groups especially for those of you who are bought in and our experience the benefits, talk about that with others who trust you. We need to get the word out about this in order to keep growing this program. We need to make sure is very viable and sustainable long-term for selves and others as well who can have a more stable economic future as a result of this. And stay up-to-date with information from our ABLE national resource Center and subscribe to an achievable newsletter. Connect with us on social media, Facebook and twitter and do continue to join us on future webinars, the next slide is the next webinar we will have which is Wednesday, March 20 at 2 PM Eastern. And throughout 2019,

 we will be showcasing various ABLE programs. In March, we are showcasing the national ABLE alliance and 16 states and DC with the construction that offers high quality and low cost investment programs which is ABLE to eligible people nationwide. We will be resenting on the structured features of the alliance, the ABLE alliance and its member states, options and details of their investment portfolio and best process. And there's a registration link for that as well. Finally, if you have any questions, you can email inquiries to info at ablenrc.org. You can also visit our website. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you so much, everyone, for joining us today on our webinar talking about strategies to fund ABLE accounts. Please take just a moment at the end to select a post training survey and give us feedback. Let us know your thoughts and we will absolutely be taking a look at that and we appreciate hearing from you. So, have a great day everyone. And that concludes our webinar.

[Event Concluded]