



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT



Welcome to #ABLEtoSave Month: **An Orientation to What You Need to Know about ABLE**

Thursday, August 1, 2019

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

The ABLE National Resource Center is funded through a grant from Prudential.

The ABLE National Resource Center

The **ABLE National Resource Center (ABLE NRC)** is the leading, comprehensive source of objective, independent information about federal- and state-related ABLE programs and activities, including guidance on tax-advantaged ABLE savings accounts.

Our mission is to educate, promote and support the positive impact ABLE can make on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities and their families.

Our pioneering work in this area and subject matter expertise makes us the foremost authority on topics related to the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, ABLE accounts, state ABLE programs, ABLE-related policy developments and comprehensive integration of ABLE and financial capability strategies for people with disabilities into public service delivery systems.

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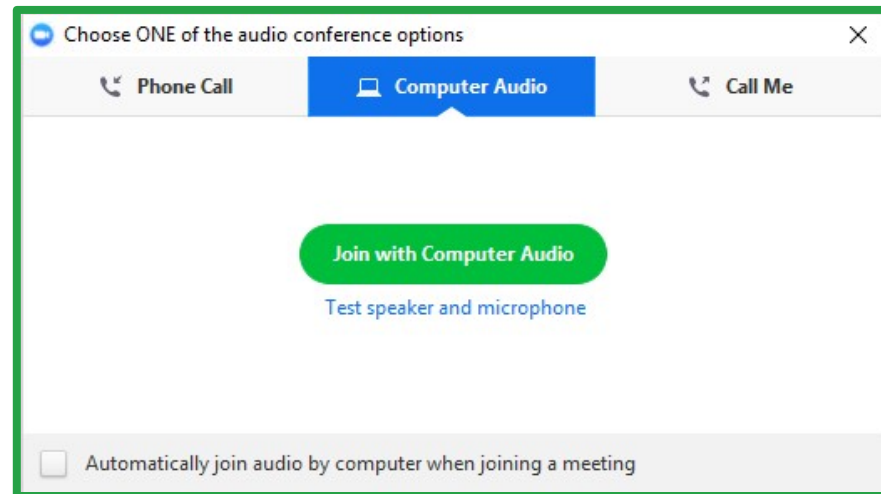
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Submitting Questions

- **Please use the Q&A** box to submit any questions you have during the webinar. We will try to answer all questions.
- Please explore the ABLÉ National Resource Center website for answers to all of your questions and for additional information within our archived webinars, resources and newsletters:

www.ablenrc.org



Technical Assistance

- If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the chat box to send a message to the NDI Host, or email amilioto@ablenrc.org.

Please note: This webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on the ABLE National Resource Center website, along with all of our other ABLE webinars, at ablenrc.org/webinars.



Facilitator and Presenters

Facilitator

- Miranda Kennedy, Director, ABLER National Resource Center

Presenters

- Marlene Ulisky, Manager Financial Empowerment, National Disability Institute
- 2019 ABLER NRC Ambassadors / ABLER Account Owners and Family Members
 - Davinna Christian, Parent of an ABLER Account Owner
 - Taylor Carty, Student and Working-Age ABLER Account Owner
 - Denise Gehringer, Parent of an ABLER Account Owner
 - Hector Ramirez, Working-Age ABLER Account Owner



Agenda

- What is #ABLEtoSave Month?
- Why ABLE?
- 5 Steps to ABLE
- Meet ABLE Account Owners and Family Members - Hear their ABLE goals
- Next Steps



What is #ABLEtoSave Month?



#ABLEtoSave Month

- #ABLEtoSave month is a nationwide awareness campaign taking place in August.
- The goal is to provide information about Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts, so that individuals with disabilities and their families become knowledgeable and comfortable enough to open an ABLE account through the state program of their choice.
- This year, we promoted our #ABLEtoSave Video Contest in the month of July as part of the national campaign. Our winners will be announced at the end of the month. We will hear their ABLE goals and the top three will receive cash prizes in their ABLE accounts to help them achieve their ABLE goal!



#ABLEtoSave Month (continued)

- Weekly webinars held every Thursday in August from 2:00-3:00pm ET will provide ABLER information and resources to target audiences, which include eligible individuals who receive benefits along with those who do not receive benefits, family members and their supporters.
- We are spreading the word via Twitter and Facebook to maximize the nationwide reach of this campaign.

Weekly #ABLEtoSave Webinars

The webinars will help to increase your understanding of ABLE accounts. Register for one or all four webinars!

- Week 1: August 8, Opening an ABLE Account: Key Decisions for Success ([REGISTER](#))
- Week 2: August 15, ABLE Best Practices and Action Steps for Family Members and Supporters (Circle of Support) ([REGISTER](#))
- Week 3: August 22, ABLE Best Practices for Working-Age Adults ([REGISTER](#))
- Week 4: August 29, Celebrating All the Ways You Are ABLE: Announcing Winners from the #ABLEtoSave Video Contest and Next Steps! ([REGISTER](#))

Why ABLE?



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Data on People with Disabilities

Americans with disabilities make up an estimated 20 percent of the U.S. population (40-57 million people).

- One in five families have a family member with a disability.
- 22 million working-age adults have disabilities.
- More than 6 million children receive special education services annually.

Data on Poverty Rates for People with Disabilities

Many people with disabilities live at or near the poverty level.

- Working age adults with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty than those without disabilities (28 percent vs. 13 percent).
- Despite significant reductions in poverty for women and people of color over the past five years, individuals with disabilities have seen no such reductions.
- Poverty rates are even higher for people with disabilities of color, those with lower levels of education and women.
- People with disabilities make up over 40 percent of the population of those living in long-term poverty.



Financial Stress Among People with Disabilities



People with disabilities are almost **3 times more likely** to have extreme difficulty paying bills.




People with disabilities are almost **2 times more likely** to skip medical treatments because of cost.



They are also more likely to report that they **could not** come up with \$2,000 if an unexpected need arose.

People with disabilities are more likely to...

		
...be late on mortgage payments.	...overdraw on checking accounts.	...take loans from retirement accounts.
31% vs 14%	31% vs 18%	23% vs 10%

 Disability  No Disability

ABLE Accounts: The Basics

What is an ABLE Account?

- An ABLE account is a Section 529A tax-free savings account owned by a person who has a qualifying disability with an onset before the age 26 **and**:
 - Receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, *or*
 - Does not receive SSI or SSDI benefits, but has a disability certification from a licensed physician (MD or DO) that indicates a qualifying physical/mental disability or blindness, which results in marked and severe functional limitations that have lasted, or can be expected to last, for at least 12 continuous months or results in death.



ABLE Accounts: Why the Need?

Millions of individuals with disabilities and their families depend on a variety of public benefits for income, health care, food and housing assistance. In order to qualify for these benefits, the programs that offer them have income and/or resource limits.

For the first time in public policy:

- The ABLE Act recognizes the extra and significant costs of living with a disability.
- Eligible individuals and their families may establish tax-advantaged ABLE savings accounts that will largely not affect their eligibility for federally-funded, means-tested benefits.

ABLE Accounts: Why the Need? (continued)

- The funds in an ABLE account may be used for **qualified disability expenses (QDEs)** and will supplement, and *not replace*, benefits provided by private insurance, Medicaid, SSI, the beneficiary's employment and other sources.
- To learn more about QDEs, check out the following resources:
 - Step #3 on our Road Map to Enrollment: What Can Funds Be Used For?
<http://ablenrc.org/step-3-what-can-funds-be-used>
 - Qualified Disability Expense (QDE) Fundamentals webinar and case summary:
<http://ablenrc.org/events/qualified-disability-expense-fundamentals>



Why Save in an ABLER Account?

- There is a resource limit of \$2,000 for most means-tested benefits.
- With an ABLER account, you can maintain eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits.
 - ABLER savings of any amount do not affect Medicaid eligibility.
 - ABLER savings of up to \$100,000 do not impact SSI eligibility or monthly payments.
- There are ABLER account tax advantages:
 - The account income grows tax-free.
 - You may qualify for tax credits for saving.

ABLE can help provide a more secure future and peace of mind for you and your family.



Opening an Account



Roadmap to ABLE

The Road Map to Enrollment

1. What Is ABLE?
2. Who Is Eligible?
3. How Can Funds Be Used?
4. How Do I Manage My Account?
5. How Do I Enroll?



Roadmap to ABLE (continued)

- Step 1: What is ABLE? <http://ablenrc.org/step-1-what-able>
- Step 2: Who is Eligible? <http://ablenrc.org/step-2-who-eligible>
- Step 3: How Can Funds Be Used? <http://ablenrc.org/step-3-what-can-funds-be-used>
- Step 4: How Do I Manage My Account? <http://ablenrc.org/step-4-how-do-i-manage-my-account>
- Step 5: How Do I Enroll? <http://ablenrc.org/step-5-how-do-i-enroll>



ABLE Programs

Choose the ABLE program that's right for you!

Click on one of these states to get their program details. You can also use our [tool that compares state programs](#)



Join
 OUR MAILING LIST
For Important Information

ABLE Account Owners and ABLE Goals



Meet ABLE Account Owner Dushon Christian's mom, Davinna, and hear Dushon's ABLE Story

Dushon's ABLE Goals:

- A communications device
- durable medical equipment
- an accessible vehicle

“ABLE helped us solve five of the six most pressing problems that we faced. It has allowed me to relax and not worry about how saving money will impact the benefits Dushon needs. His ABLE account will take care of whatever needs he has. I can relax and take a breath. That is real...” - Davinna



Meet ABLÉ Account Owner Taylor Carty

Taylor's ABLÉ Goals:

- A house
- A comfortable retirement
- Emergencies, and
- Medical School Tuition

“I was ecstatic when I first learned about the ABLÉ Act and the financial freedom it offered. It was an immense relief knowing that I can save for medical school while not having to worry about losing my Medi-Cal coverage. Because of my ABLÉ account, I will have a better and more financially secure future.” - Taylor



Taylor studying for MCAT



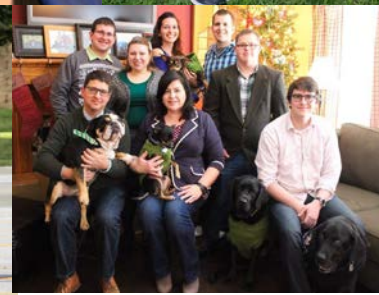
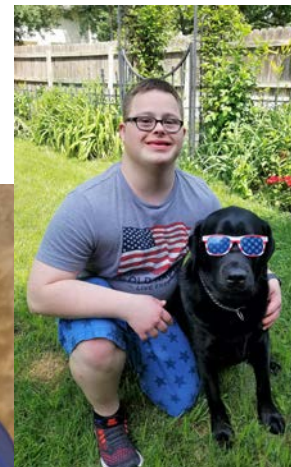
Meet ABLE Account Owner Jacob Gehringer's mom, Denise, and hear Jacob's ABLE story

Jacob's ABLE Goals:

- On-the-job supports, as needed
- A bike with adaptations for transportation (**Achieved!**)
- His own home with a yard for his dog Miller

Jacob is now employed at Little Leaf Learning Center as an Office Assistant. He works 15 hours per week. His first paycheck was deposited into his ABLE account.

“As a parent, I want to make sure that the resources are available for Jacob to live as independently as possible. When the time comes when his siblings will be his primary support, we want to make preparations so their lives will not be burdened financially.” - Denise



Meet ABLE Account Owner Hector Ramirez

Hector's ABLE Goals:

- To provide a safety net against homelessness
- Saving for a Home (Achieved!)

“By the time I turned 44, I had moved over 40 different times...I have lived in a nice big house and in a closet...and in a car on the streets. The main reason I wanted to open an ABLE account is so that I could finally have a place to call home.” - Hector



ABLE Is Flexible

- The ABLE account owners are a diverse group.
- The ABLE Account owners have diverse savings goals for qualified disability expenses that include saving for medical equipment and needs, assistive technology, vehicles for transportation, tuition, a home, on-the-job supports, planning for their future independence, emergencies and retirement.
- An ABLE account has helped and can continue to help these account owners to meet their needs, their goals and their dreams.
- Can it meet yours? Are you ABLE ready?



How an ABLE Account Can Fit into Your Future

- We are all unique and have different needs, goals and dreams.
- The #ABLEtoSave Webinars will share information so that you learn how an ABLE account has helped others and can help you to increase your health, independence and quality of life and help you to make your goals and dreams a reality.
- You will learn how to choose a state program, open your account, fund your account, use your account for qualified disability expenses, and about strategies to maximize usage of your account. YOU are ABLE!

When to Open the Account: One Day or Make Today Day One – You Decide

- Have you heard about the ABLE Act and thought it had to be too good to be true, but know that if what you heard is true, it could change your life?
- Have you thought about what's important in your life and what your dream life looks like and whether you can get there by taking small steps starting now?
- Are you getting older and thinking about getting things in order to provide for a more secure future for a family member?
- Then listen to family members and account owners who have learned that “It doesn't matter where you are, you are nowhere compared to where you can go...” with an ABLE account.

Next Steps



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Bring any questions you may have to the next webinar and get your questions answered!

Visit Our Website and Learn More! ablenrc.org

- In addition to [The Road Map to Enrollment](#) and our [tool that compares state programs](#), there are a variety of [resources](#) available to you 24/7!
 - Federal Guidance from the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Housing and Urban Development
 - The ABLE to Save Toolkit
 - The ABLE Case Summary Series
 - ABLE Accounts and Tax Time Savings
 - ABLE Accounts, Special Needs Trusts and Pooled Trust Comparison Chart
- Stay tuned for our new website coming this Fall!



Help Spread the Word!

- Help spread the word! Please share information about ABLÉ accounts with friends, family and community groups! Add the topic of ABLÉ within your conversations to inform people of the new opportunity for people to be lifted from poverty and enhance their life and be allowed to save regularly for their current or future needs.
- Open an ABLÉ account or assist some else with opening their ABLÉ account.
- To receive up-to-date information on ABLÉ, please subscribe to our [AchievABLE](#) newsletter.
- Connect with us on social media: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Participate in all of the #ABLEtoSave webinars and all of the [ABLE National Resource Center webinars](#) to stay informed.



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