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The webinar will begin momentarily.

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**WELCOME!**





**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER**  
ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT



# ABLE Program Spotlight: National ABLE Alliance

Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET / 11 am - 12 pm PT

ABLE NRC is funded through grants from Prudential and Wells-Fargo.

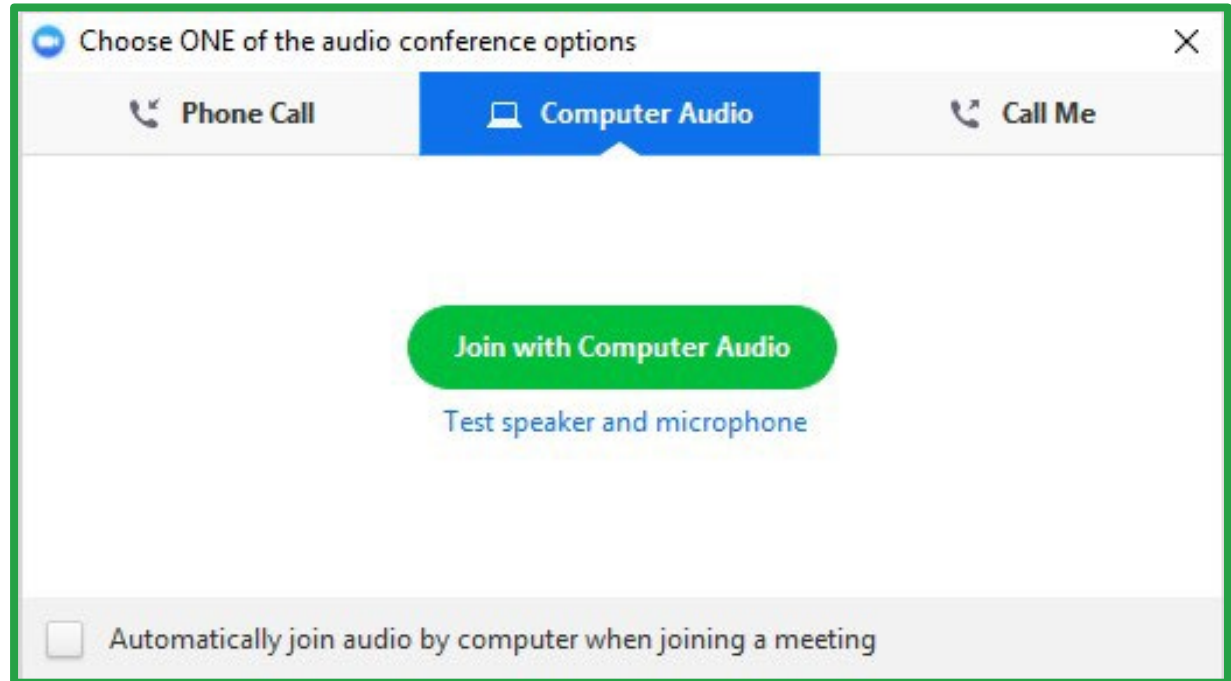


# Listening to the Webinar

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- 1-929-205-6099
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# Submitting Questions

- Use the Q&A box to submit any questions you have during the webinar. We will try to answer all questions.
- Do not use the chat box for questions.
- We invite you to explore the ABLÉ National Resource Center website for answers to all of your ABLÉ questions and for additional information within our archived webinars, resources and newsletters:

[ablenrc.org](https://www.ablenrc.org)



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# Facilitator

**Miranda Kennedy, M.P.P.**  
Director, ABLE National Resource Center



# Agenda

- ABLE NRC Resources and ABLE Program Spotlight Series
- National ABLE Alliance Presentation
  - ABLE Account fundamentals and advantages
  - “In Their Own Words:” Perspective from an ABLE Account Owner and Parent Advocate
  - The National ABLE Alliance
  - Unique features of the National ABLE Alliance Plans
- ABLE NRC Upcoming Events





# 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.

[ablenrc.org](https://ablenrc.org)

# ABLE National Resource Center

Visit ABLE NRC's website at [www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org) for:

- [ABLE FAQs](#)
- [ABLE Decision Guides](#)
- [ABLE Account Owners](#)
- [ABLE Family Members](#)
- [#ABLEtoSave Podcasts](#)
- [ABLE Webinars – Upcoming and On-Demand](#)
- [AchievABLE Newsletter](#)
- [ABLE State Comparison Tool](#)
- [ABLE Program Spotlights](#)
- [ABLE Toolkits](#)



# ABLE Decision Guide Series



## ABLE Decision Guide Series

- A series of step-by-step guides on key ABLE topics that provide multiple pathways to outcomes.
- Guides help increase ABLE understanding and assist in effective decision making.

## ABLE Decision Guides:

- [Am I ABLE Eligible?](#)
- [Selecting and Opening an ABLE Account](#)
- [Understanding ABLE Account Savings and Public Benefits](#)
- [Managing an ABLE Account](#)
- [Finding Funds to Save in an ABLE Account](#)
- [Determining Whether Something Is a Qualified Disability Expense](#)
- [ABLE Accounts and Working People with Disabilities](#)
- \*More ABLE Decision Guides in-development

# Introducing ABLE NRC's Spotlight Series

- Intended for those who have a basic understanding of ABLE.
- Features nationally open ABLE programs that are part of multi-state collaborations, as well as individual state programs.
- Covers program details, general guidance and best practices.
- Provides an overview of saving and investing within an ABLE account to help current and prospective ABLE account owners better understand their options.
- [ABLE Program Spotlight Webinars On-Demand](#)





# ABLE Program Spotlight: National ABLE Alliance

*National ABLE Alliance*





# Panelists

- Zora Falkowski, Communications Officer, North Carolina ABLE
- Stephanie Antkowiak, Executive Director, the Arc of High Point North Carolina & Parent Advocate
- Sam Antkowiak, North Carolina ABLE Account Owner
- JJ Hanley, Director, Illinois ABLE
- Jose Gamboa, Relationship Manager, Ascensus College Savings



# Planned Learning Outcomes

- ABLE Account fundamentals and advantages
- “In Their Own Words”: Perspective from an NC ABLE Account Owner and Parent Advocate
- The National ABLE Alliance
- Unique features of the National ABLE Alliance Plans



# ABLE Account Fundamentals and Advantages

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# Advantages of ABLE Accounts for People with Disabilities

- Earnings and withdrawals are tax-free if used for Qualified Disability Expenses (QDE's)
- Build savings while preserving benefits, such as SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, HUD and others
  - SSI benefits preserved up to \$100,000 ABLE account balance
  - No Medicaid asset cap Don't have to spend down to avoid asset caps –save for meaningful expenditures
- If working, ABLE Account Owners can contribute beyond the \$16,000 annual contribution limit

“...to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency” for and by people with disabilities.”

Americans with Disabilities Act

# Advantages of ABLE Accounts for People with Disabilities (cont.)

- No withdrawal limits
- One account allowed per eligible individual nationwide
- Anyone can contribute to the ABLE account; in some states taxpayers can receive a state income tax deduction
- Alternative or add-on to a special needs trust
- Person with the disability is the Account Owner





# Qualified Disability Expenses



- Expenses that maintain or improve health, independence, or quality of life are included under QDEs
- QDEs should be construed broadly to include basic living expenses
- QDEs are *not limited* to expenses that are medically necessary or that provide no benefit to others in addition to the account owner
- Includes education, housing transportation, job coaching, personal support, financial management, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses, and more



It is recommended to keep records and receipts for QDEs



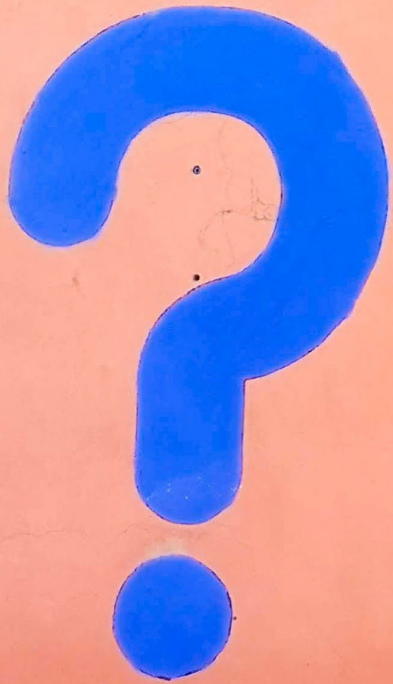
# Introducing North Carolina ABLE Account Owner, Sam Antkowiak, and his Mom, Stephanie Antkowiak: “In Their Own Words”

*National ABLE Alliance*





# Questions for Sam & Stephanie



- Sam, can you tell us a little about why you're going to college and what your experience has been like?
- Sam, can you talk a little about your job and how you're saving with your NC ABLE Account?
- Stephanie, can you tell us about why it was important for Sam and his sister to have NC ABLE Accounts?
- Stephanie, can you talk about the goals for Sam with his NC ABLE Account and the goals for his sister's Account?



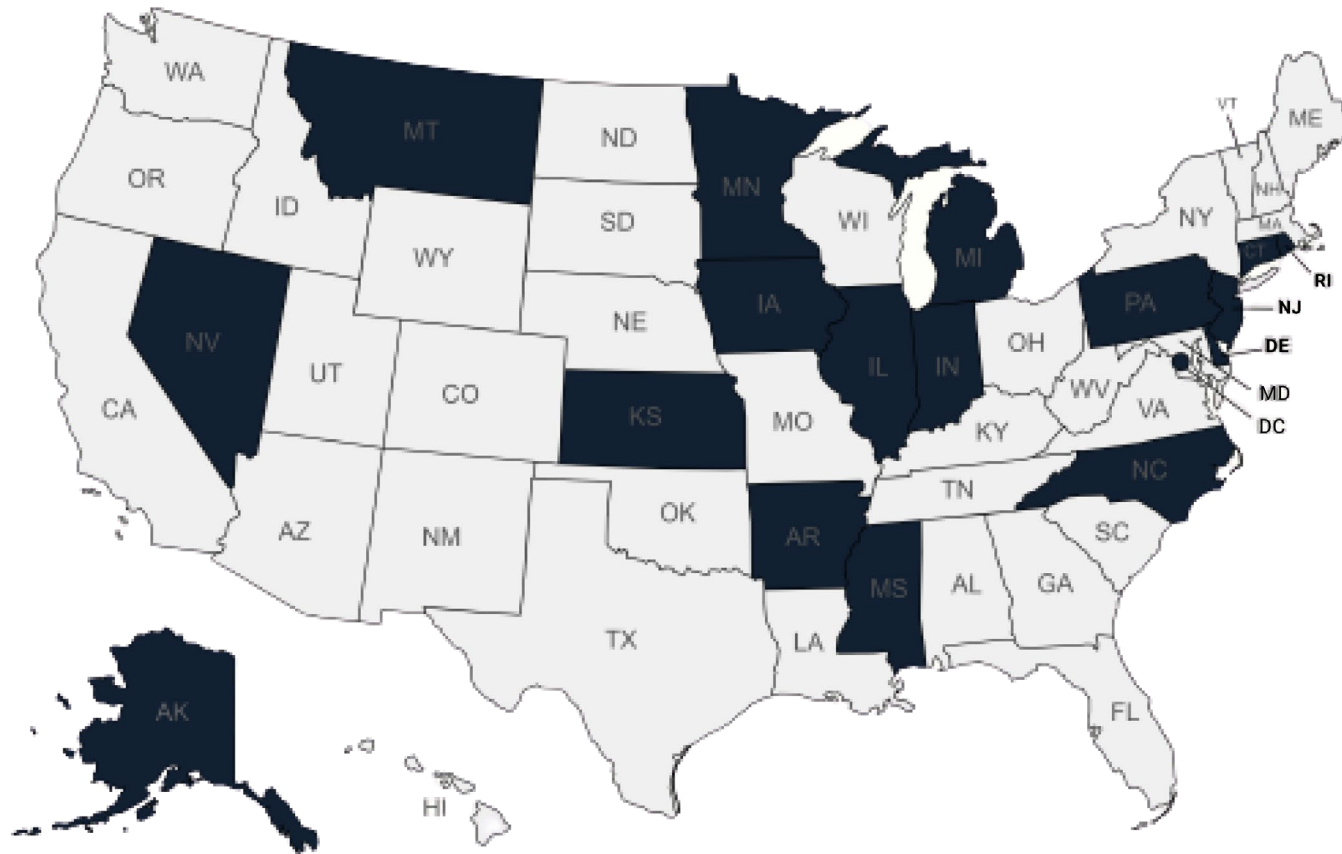
# Introduction to the National ABLE Alliance

*National ABLE Alliance*



# What is the National ABLE Alliance?

17-state + D.C., bipartisan partnership offering a high quality, low-cost, flexible option for saving and investing to eligible people with disabilities and their families across the country.



- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island

# Economies of Scale

The National ABLE Alliance represents approximately one-quarter of the nationally eligible population.

State	Population	Eligible Population
AK	731,545	11,609
AR	3,017,804	123,168
CT	3,565,287	75,531
DC	705,749	18,688
DE	973,764	23,454
IA	3,155,070	68,390
IL	12,671,821	277,152
IN	6,732,219	178,669
KS	2,913,314	63,679
MN	5,639,632	111,521
MS	2,976,149	119,483
MT	1,068,778	22,927
NC	10,488,084	278,526
NJ	8,882,190	176,227
NV	3,080,156	54,454
PA	12,801,989	388,859
RI	1,059,361	34,248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,462,912</b>	<b>2,026,585</b>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2019; National Disability Institute's calculation of ABLE-Eligible State Population, based upon Social Security Administration data (December 2017 SSDI data and December 2018 SSI data)

# What States Make Up the National ABLE Alliance?





# IMPORTANT: Make sure you are enrolling in the plan you think you are enrolling in!



- Check that the logo and plan name are of the intended state plan.
- Always check your own state's plan first.



# Member Plans' Depth of Experience and Breadth of Expertise

- **Financial services and investment management**
- **Retirement and 529 College Savings industries**
- **Legislative and regulatory fields**
- **Human services and disability services**
- **Disability advocacy and rights**
- **Legal and public policy**
- **Marketing and communications**
- **Education**

# An ABLER Account Can Be Opened in a NAA Member Plan No Matter What State You Live In\*\*

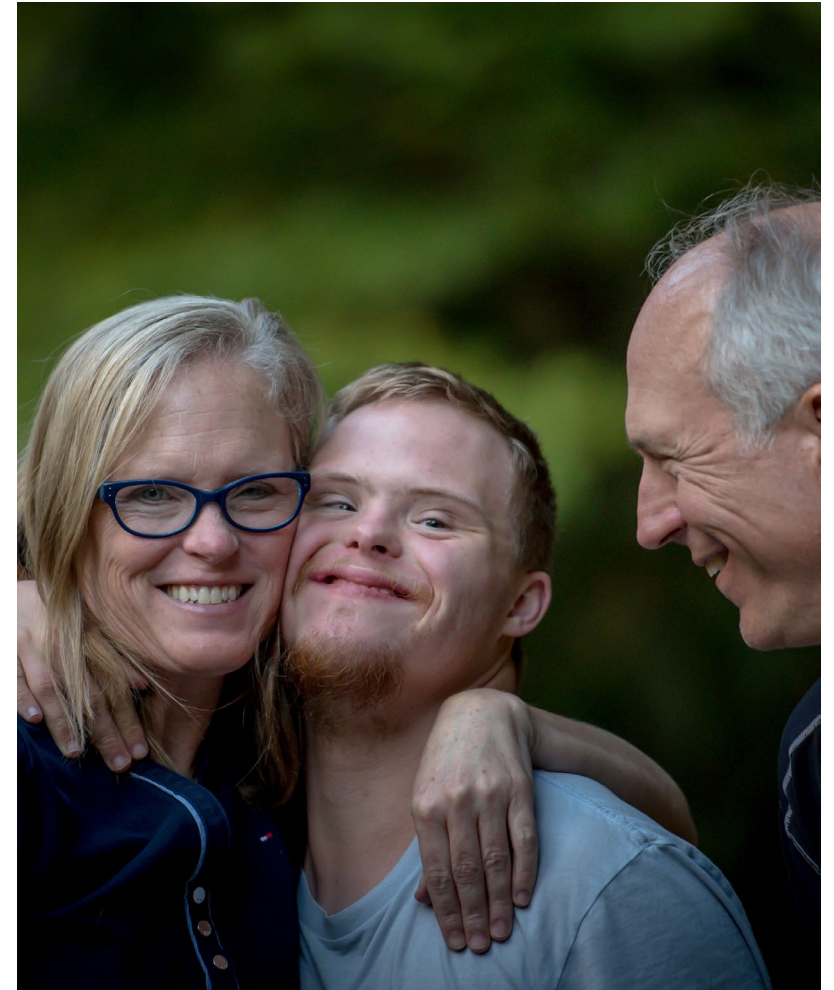
**ABLE Plans that offer enrollment under the new hierarchy rule:**

- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Iowa
- Arkansas
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- New Jersey
- Rhode Island
- Washington D.C.
- Delaware
- Indiana
- Michigan

**Plans that will implement the hierarchy beginning Nov 20, 2022:**

- Illinois
- Pennsylvania
- Connecticut
- Montana
- North Carolina

**Some NAA Plans require that copies of legal documentation be submitted. Some do not. Check with the individual Plan.**





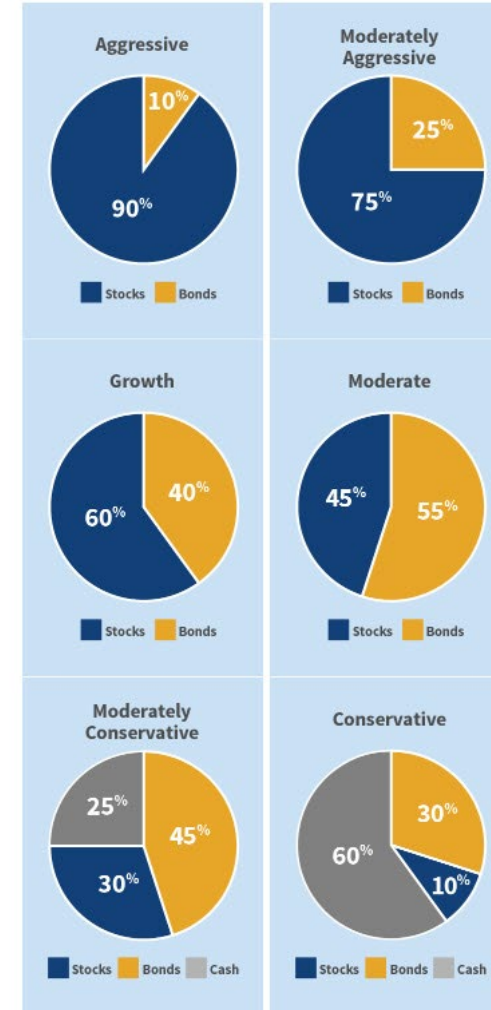
# Unique Features of National ABLE Alliance Plans

*National ABLE Alliance*



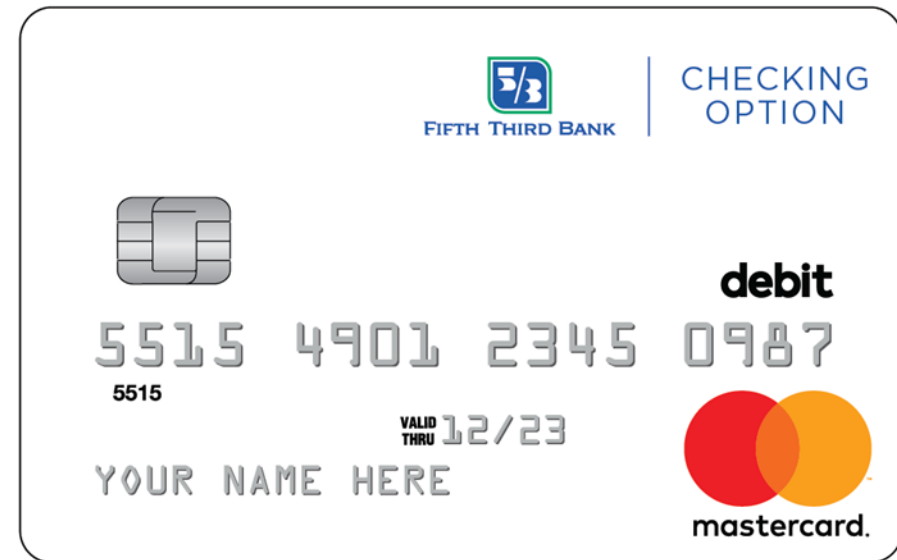
# Six Target Risk Investment Options

- Option choices to align with varied Account Owner goals and comfort with risk.
- From aggressive options that seek higher returns to conservative options that seek capital preservation.
- Highly-rated index-based underlying investment funds.
- Cash allocations are invested in a high-yield Sallie Mae Bank savings option.



# Saving with Fifth Third through Checking Option

- FDIC-insured up to \$250,000
- Interest bearing
- Fee-free debit card
- Optional check writing
- All checking and debit transactions included on quarterly ABLE statements
- Use of 55,000+ fee-free ATMs nationwide
- \$2 monthly checking account fee – waived for e-delivery or >\$250 balance
- No overdraft fees





# Giftng Platform



- An easy, free, gift contribution service that lets family, friends and others contribute to ABLE account owners' plans.
- Encourages account owners to celebrate milestones with the gift of ABLE savings, in lieu of traditional gifts.
- Account owners receive a unique Ugift code, which can be shared with others and can be used anytime to contribute at [UgiftABLE.com](https://UgiftABLE.com).



# National ABLE Alliance Plans Now Have Lower Fees



- Annual Account maintenance fees lowered approximately 25% for Account Owners who receive electronic statement delivery.
- Went into effect July 1, 2022
- Program management fees reduced an average of 6%.

# Thank You

*National ABLÉ Alliance*



# Upcoming ABLE NRC Events

- Join us in celebrating October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by registering for [Ready and ABLE to Work and Save Panel](#) on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-3pm ET.
- Join us for our next [ABLE Program Spotlight: ABLEnow and ABLEAmerica](#) on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-3pm ET

# Help Spread the Word!

Please follow and share information about ABLE accounts!

- To receive up-to-date information on ABLE, please subscribe to and promote our [AchievABLE](#) newsletter.
- Connect with us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), TikTok, and Twitter [@theABLENRC](#).

**The End – Thank You!**



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