Welcome!

Thank you for joining us today. The webinar will begin soon.

This webinar is being recorded. The materials, including a transcript, will be placed in our resource library,

Resources - ABLE National Resource Center, filter by webinars.





ABLE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Click. Apply. Save.

A Step-by-Step Guide to ABLE Enrollment

June 11th, 2-3pm ET

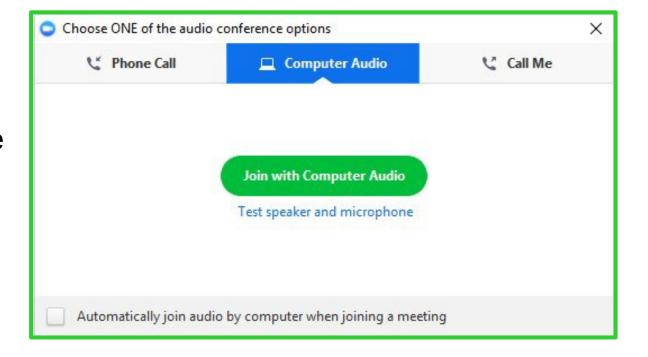
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dial: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting Code: 821 6684 6814



Questions and Technical Assistance

- Questions: We will answer questions placed in the Q&A box during the
 webinar. If your question is not answered, please email <u>info@ablenrc.org</u>
 or visit our website <u>ablenrc.org</u> and contact us if our resources do not
 provide the answer you are seeking.
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 Zoom controls at the bottom of the screen.
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ABLE National Resource Center

The <u>ABLE National Resource Center</u> (ABLE NRC) provides all the ABLE information you need in one place. ABLE NRC shares reliable, objective information about ABLE plans, including plan comparisons, best practices and strategies to increase savings now and into the future.

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.

AGENDA

- ABLE Overview
- Ascensus Enrollment Process
- Vestwell Enrollment Process



What is ABLE?

- ABLE is an acronym for Achieving a Better Life Experience.
- The ABLE Act was signed into law in December 2014 and ABLE accounts have been opened since 2016.
- An ABLE account is a savings and/or investment account that is designed exclusively for people with disabilities.
- ABLE is modeled after 529 education plans.
- ABLE allows millions of people with disabilities the opportunity to save and invest money and grow wealth.

Why Save in an ABLE Account?

- ❖ ABLE account owners can save without paying taxes on ABLE investment earnings.
- ❖ Any person or entity can deposit money in an ABLE account.
- ❖ Direct contributions into an ABLE account from family, friends, a Special Needs or Pooled Trust or a 529 College Savings Plan rollover, do not count as income by federally funded means-tested benefit programs (unlike other types of savings / investment accounts).
- ❖ ABLE savings can be spent on a variety of things that help the account owner stay healthy, independent and have a good life.
- ❖ ABLE funds can be used to pay for <u>extra-costs-associated-with-living-with-a-disability</u>.
- ❖ An ABLE account owner can save and invest money while maintaining eligibility for meanstested supports and services.

Having an ABLE Account is Associated with

- increased financial literacy
- increased self-efficacy
- increased choice-making
- increased financial engagement
- increased self-determination

These outcomes, in turn, are associated with improved life satisfaction and increased goal-directed behavior.



*Soon to be published (2025) findings from National Disability Institute's study on *Financial Empowerment as a Gateway to Employment and Community Participation* funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

ABLE Protects Eligibility for Public Benefits

Up to **\$100,000** in savings is disregarded as a resource and will **NOT** affect Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Any amount of ABLE savings up to the plan's limit, currently between \$235,000 - \$596,925 depending on the plan, will **NOT** affect eligibility for:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Housing Assistance Housing and Urban Development programs (HUD)
- Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Social Security and Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Medicare (Entitlement to Parts A, B, C, or D)
- Medicaid benefits including Medicaid Waiver Services and Medicare Savings Programs

Saving in an ABLE account can avoid SSA overpayments.

Presenters

Lauri Maloney
Director of ABLE Savings Plan
Advocacy and Growth, Ascensus

David BellVice President, Vestwell Savings



LIVE

Click. Apply. Save. A Step-by-Step Guide to ABLE Enrollment



with Vestwell and Acensus

June 11, 2025 | 2:00-3:00 pm ET





How to open an ABLE account

Lauri Maloney

Director of ABLE Savings Plan Advocacy and Growth June 11, 2025

Ascensus is the Program Manager for 23 States















































What to know (Slide 1 of 3) Two ways to set up an ABLE account



ONE ACCOUNT

(Individual Account Owner Enrollment)

Individuals opening an ABLE account for themselves or on behalf of someone else.



MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS

(ABLE Entity Management Dashboard Registration)

One-time registration to open and manage multiple ABLE accounts on an ongoing basis all in one place.

What to know (Slide 2 of 3)

Account eligibility - Who can own an account?

Two key eligibility criteria must be met

A person is eligible to own an ABLE account if:

Their disability was present before the age of 26*





One of the following is true:

- They are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) because of blindness or disability
- They have a medically determinable physical or mental impairment with marked, severe functional limitation that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 continuous months or to result in death
- They have identified their condition on the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions

*Expanding to before age 46 on 1/1/2026

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What to know (Slide 3 of 3) Who can open an ABLE account?

It does not have to be the Account Owner

- Account Owner: Individual with a disability with capacity
- Authorized Individual: Others may be able to open and manage the ABLE account on behalf of the Account Owner in this priority order:
- ✓ Power of Attorney
- ✓ Grandparent
- ✓ Guardian or Conservator
- ✓ Representative Payee

✓ Spouse

appointed by SSA

- ✓ Parent
- ✓ Sibling
- No matter who opens the account, the eligible individual is the Account Owner, and they can only have one ABLE account nationwide



Step 1

Gather basic information for the Account Owner and/or Authorized Individual:

Permanent address

Birthday

SSN*, TIN*, EIN*, Driver's license, Military or State-Issued ID

and email address

Account Owner's disability

Basis under which ABLE eligibility is declared:

- ✓ SSDI (social Security Disability Insurance)
- √ SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
- ✓ Disability is identified on the Social Security Administrations list of Compassionate Allowances conditions
- ✓ Doctor diagnosed

PROGRESS

Enter New Account Owner's Information
The Account Owner is the individual with the disability. Please enter their information here.
Account Owner's First Name
Account Owner's Last Name
Enter the email address and phone number to which all communications from the Plan should be sent - enter only one email address.
Email
Direct Telephone Number
A code will be sent (call or text) to this number to log in.
continue 🐤

- *SSN Social Security Number (used to track an individual's earnings & contributions)
- *TIN Taxpayer Identification Number (tracks taxpayers, ensuring compliance with tax regulations)
- *EIN Employer Identification Number (assigned by IRS to businesses & tax-exempt organizations for tax Identification purposes)

Step 2

Determine how you would like to use the ABLE Account and choose your investment options:

What disability expenses do I want to save for?

- ✓ Ongoing expenses that require easy access to funds on a regular basis.
- ✓ Saving for a rainy day?
- ✓ Larger, more expensive item that requires a long time to save?
- ✓ Funds for all the above?

When will I need the money?

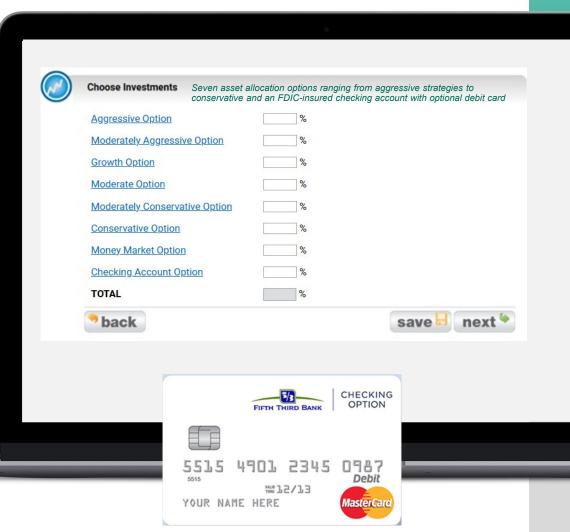
✓ Expenses need to pay within the next several months, 1-3 years, or longer?

What is my risk tolerance?

✓ How do changes in financial markets affect what I want to use my ABLE funds for?

Note: Don't forget to review the Plan Disclosure Booklet





Step 3

Pick a Contribution Method:

How will money be contributed to the Account?

- ✓ Bank account—recurring contributions.*
- ✓ Bank account—single contribution.
- ✓ Paycheck—payroll Direct Deposit.
- ✓ A check

Note: You can set up multiple contribution methods after the account is established.

*A plan of regular investment cannot assure a profit or protect against a loss in a declining market.

PROGRESS



Annual contribution limit

For 2025, **\$19,000** can be contributed into an ABLE Account annually.

An **ABLE Account Owner with earned income** may be eligible to make additional contributions exceeding this limit.

Balances of \$100,000 or less are excluded from your SSI resource limit.

Step 4

Choose a delivery method for plan documents:

Notify by email or mail?

- ✓ Quarterly statements and plan disclosure booklet updates
- ✓ Transactions & Profile Confirmations
- ✓ Tax Forms

Note: By establishing E-Delivery, the Account is eligible for a reduced Annual Account Maintenance Fee.



PROGRESS

Step 5

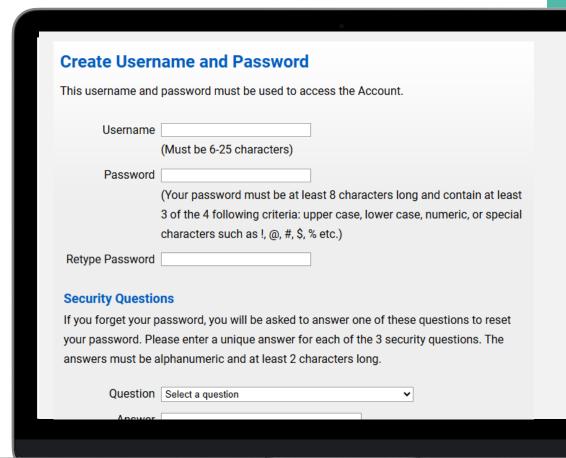
Security: At Ascensus we are committed to the security of your ABLE account. We apply a multitude of security measures and continuously monitor our systems to protect your account against fraudulent activity.

Set up your individual:

- ✓ Username
- ✓ Password
- ✓ Security questions
- ✓ Security Image
- ✓ Multi-factor authentication



PROGRESS



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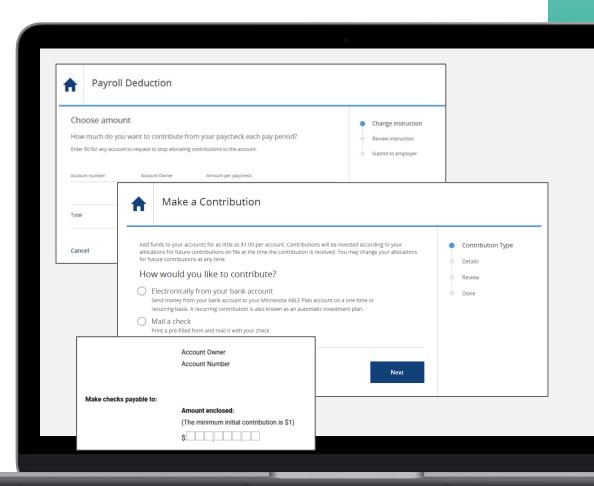
Step 6Complete the account:

- Verify and submit your information
- Review and acknowledge Terms and Conditions
- Deposit or contribute funds into the Account

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your account has been established

PROGRESS

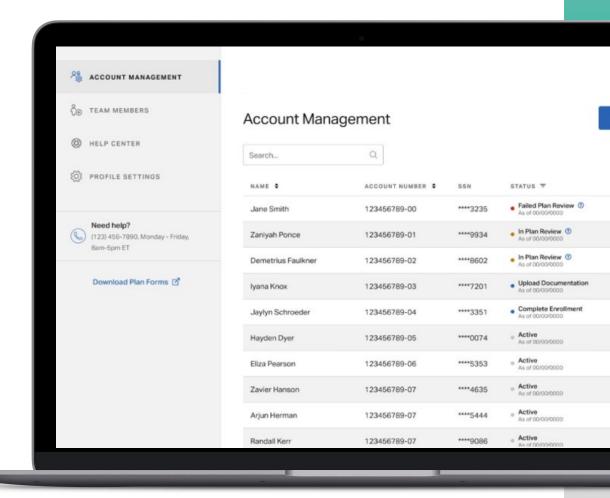


New Entity Solution

Makes it easy for Entities who act as guardian, conservator, or representative payee for Account Owners to open and manage multiple ABLE accounts on behalf of the many individuals they represent.

Benefits:

- ✓ Reduces time and manual tracking
- ✓ A simplified, at-a-glance view of all individual accounts
- ✓ Provides the ability to open new accounts and upload required documentation
- ✓ Allows for single sign-on access to each individual account
- ✓ Enhanced functionality to add and remove other Entity team members who will help manage individual accounts



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Thank you

"My ABLE account has made a great difference in my life because for the first time I am permitted to save and invest funds without jeopardizing eligibility for SSI, Medicaid, SNAP and other benefits."

"The ABLE account has significantly improved my quality of life. The ABLE program has given me the dignity to work toward a better future, the ability to dream bigger, and the financial security that every American deserves."

ASCENSUS

"The ABLE account has made a huge difference in my life. It's helped me pay for medical bills."

For more information about the specific ABLE Plan (the "Member Plan"), go to Ascensus, https://www.ascensus.com/who-we-serve/savers-employees/save-with-an-able-account/, to obtain the specific ABLE Plan's Disclosure Booklet and/or the Investment Policy Statement, which includes investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information about the Member Plan. Please read and consider the Plan Disclosure Booklet carefully before investing.

Before investing in any ABLE program, you should consider whether your home state offers an ABLE program that provides its taxpayers with favorable state tax or other benefits that are only available through investment in the home state's ABLE program. You also should consult your financial, tax, or other adviser to learn more about how state-based benefits (or any limitations) would apply to your specific circumstances. You also may wish to directly contact your home state's ABLE program, or any other ABLE program, to learn more about those plans' features, benefits and limitations. Keep in mind that state-based benefits should be one of many appropriately weighted factors to be considered when making an investment decision.

The Member Plan is sponsored by the state and administered by Department of Revenue. The Member Plan is intended to be a qualified ABLE plan offered through the National ABLE Alliance. Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC, the Program Manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including investment advisory, recordkeeping and administrative services. The Member Plan's Investment Options are allocations to mutual funds, ETFs, banking products and/or other investments. Except for the Checking Account Option, investments in the Member Plan are not insured by the FDIC. Interests in the Member Plan are municipal securities and the value of your Account will vary with market conditions.

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ABLE Enrollment

June 11, 2025

PROPRIETARY & CONFIDENTIAL TO VESTWELL HOLDINGS / FOR INSTITUTIONAL USE ONLY

Vestwell as Program Manager

20 ABLE Plans









































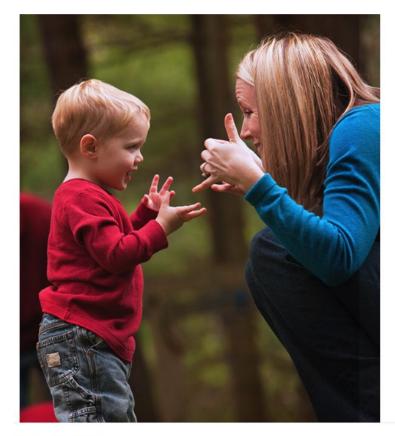


ABLE Enrollment (Continued)

Save for today and invest for tomorrow

Opening an ABLE account is easy and can be done in less than 10 minutes

- Account Verification
- Eligibility
- Funding Your Account
- Use Your Account



Open a STABLE Account Plan account

Get closer to achieving financial empowerment and start saving for a more independent and secure future.

What you'll need to get started

 The date of birth, address and Social Security Number / ITIN for the people on the account

Your Email *

youremail@domain.com

- I have reviewed, understood and accepted the terms of the <u>Plan Disclosure</u>

 Statement ♂
- I have reviewed, understood and accepted <u>Vestwell Platform Terms of Use</u>
 and <u>Vestwell Online Privacy Policy</u>.

 ♂.

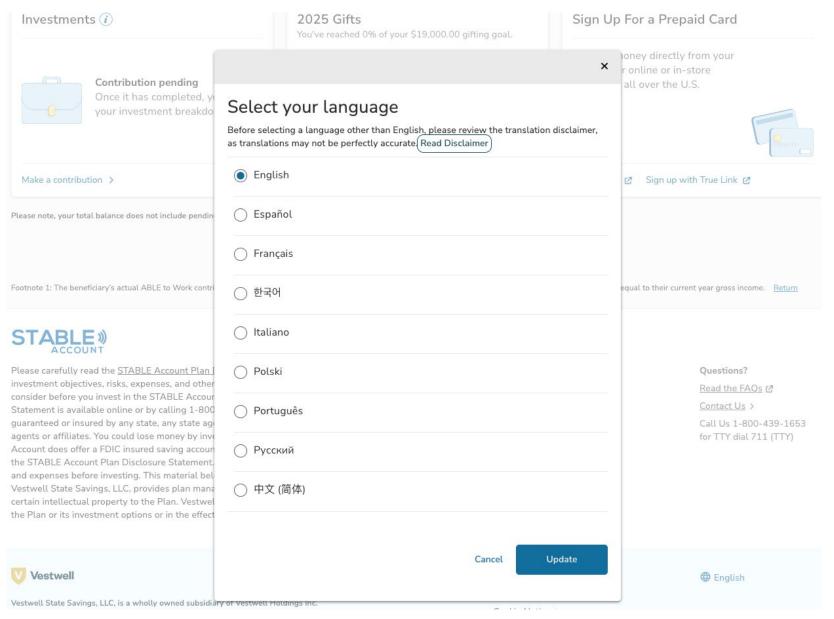
♠ Get started





Accessibility

ADA Compliance & Language Translation



Account Verification



Person First

Account Owner / Beneficiary

Tell us about the beneficiary

Are you the beneficiary? *

The beneficiary is the individual with the disability who owns and benefits from the funds in the account. The information entered below will also be used for tax purposes.

○ Yes		
No		
Beneficiary first name *		Beneficiary last name *
Social Security Number / ITIN *		Date of birth *
000-00-0000		MM/DD/YYYY
Identifies as *		
Select	~	

Residential address

No P.O. boxes or military addresses accepted.

Street address *



Account Security

Know Your Customer



Verify your identity

We partner with Plaid to verify your identity as the Authorized Legal Representative.

Back



Don't have a mobile phone?

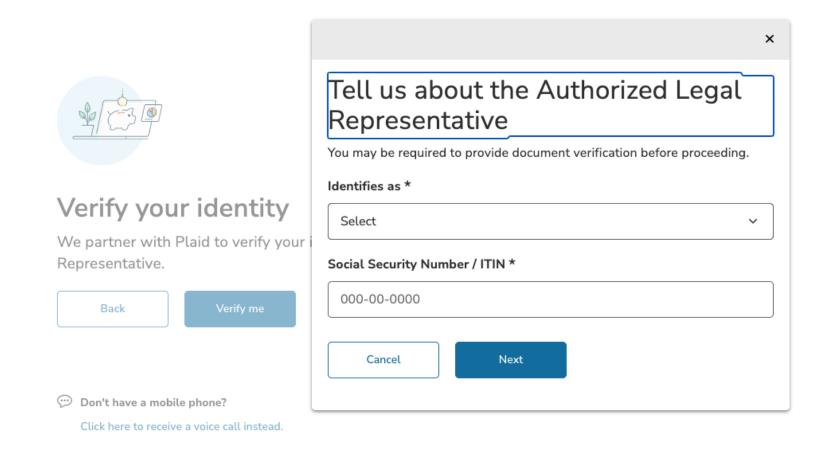
Click here to receive a voice call instead.





Account Security

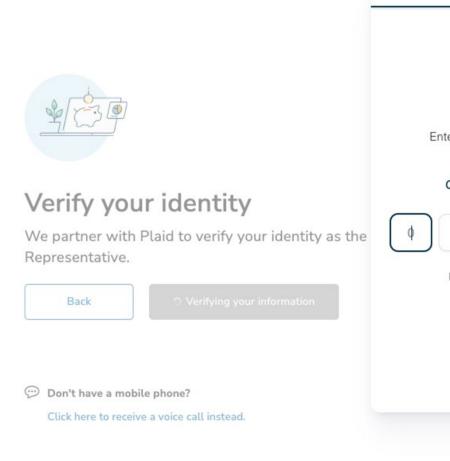
Authorized Representative

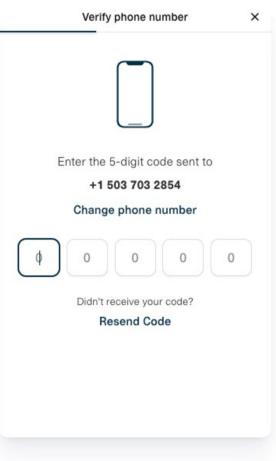




Account Security

Multi-Factor Authentication



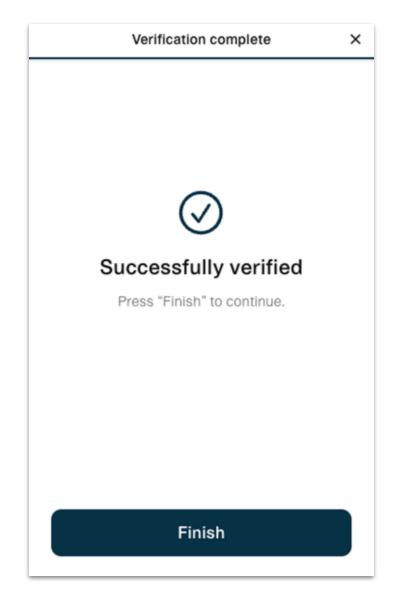






Account Security

Success!







Disability

Eligibility information

O No

This determines what makes the beneficiary eligible for an ABLE account.

Which option applies to the beneficiary? * I certify under the penalties of perjury that: The beneficiary is entitled during the current year to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits based on blindness or disability under title XVI of the Social Security Act The beneficiary is entitled during the current year to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits based on blindness or disability under title II of the Social Security Act The beneficiary has a. a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that results in marked and severe functional limitation (see definition below) $\frac{1}{2}$ and can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months; OR is blind (see definition below) $\frac{2}{}$. AND b. a signed diagnosis (in this form 🗷) from a licensed physician (as defined below) $\frac{3}{2}$ as to the condition described in (a) I understand that I am required to retain such signed diagnosis and to provide it to the Plan or the IRS upon request, and I agree to do so. What is the diagnosis code? * Search (i) Is this disability permanent? * () Yes



Diagnosis Code

What is the diagnosis code? *

Q

Code 1 Developmental Disorder

Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, Developmental Delays and Learning Disabilities

Code 2 Intellectual Disability

Mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disability

Code 3 Psychiatric Disorder

Schizophrenia, Major depressive disorder, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Anorexia nervosa, Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) and Bipolar disorder

Code 4 Nervous Disorder

Blindness, Deafness, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Spina Bifida, Juvenile-onset Huntington's disease, Multiple sclerosis, Severe sensorineural hearing loss and Congenital cataracts

Code 5 Congenital Anomaly

Chromosomal abnormalities: Down Syndrome, Osteogenesis imperfecta, Xeroderma pigmentosum, Spinal muscular atrophy, Fragile X syndrome and Edwards syndrome

Code 6 Respiratory Disorder

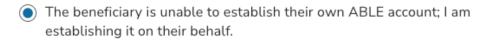
Cystic Fibrosis



Authorized Representative (Continued)

Please select one *

I have been selected by the beneficiary to establish this ABLE account on their behalf.



What is your relationship to this beneficiary? *

Power of Attorney
I have the Power of Attorney to open and manage an ABLE account for this beneficiary.

Conservator
The beneficiary does not have a Power of Attorney pertaining to this ABLE account and I have been appointed conservator.

Legal Guardian
The beneficiary does not have a Power of Attorney pertaining to this ABLE account and I am their legal guardian.

Spouse
The beneficiary does not have a Power of Attorney pertaining to this ABLE account and I am their spouse

Parent

The beneficiary does not have a Power of Attorney pertaining to this ABLE account and I am their parent.

Sibling

The beneficiary does not have a Power of Attorney pertaining to this ABLE account and I am their sibling.





Connecting a Bank Account



Fund your account

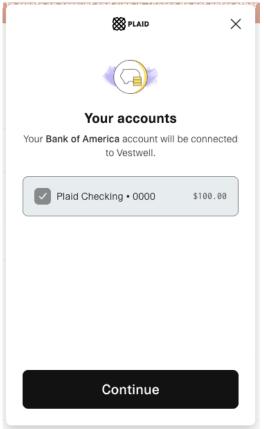
The quickest way to kick start your savings is to link your bank account.

Connect bank account →

Other funding methods

 $\ensuremath{\widehat{y}}$ Here's a few helpful links to get you started:

Learn more about how to link a bank account. 2



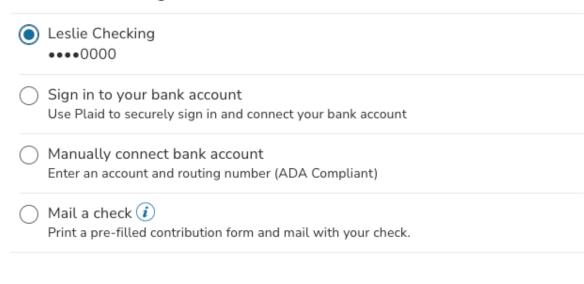


Multiple Funding Methods

Choose a funding method

Choose a funding method to make an initial contribution.

Choose initial funding method *



Back

Next





Investment Option

Choose your strategy and add money

Choose how you want to invest your first contribution. You can change your investment allocation for future contributions at any time. There is a \$1 minimum per portfolio, and you must contribute \$25 total. You can change your selection(s) twice per calendar year.

Compare all investment options 2

Investment Option



Bank Safe Option (NP) &

This investment option offers FDIC insurance protection for amounts contributed up to FDIC-permitted limits.

Amount



\$ 100



Income Option (NP) &

The Income Option seeks to provide current income and some capital appreciation by investing 100% of its assets in the Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Fund.

Amount

\$ 0



Conservative Growth Option (NP) &

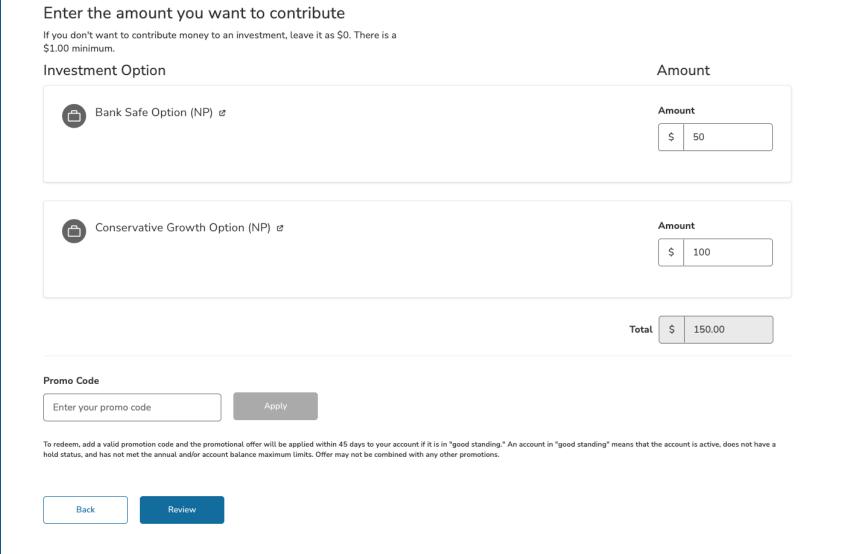
The Conservative Growth Option seeks to provide current income and low-tomoderate capital appreciation by investing 100% of its assets in the Vanguard LifeStrategy Conservative Growth Fund.

Amount

\$ 200

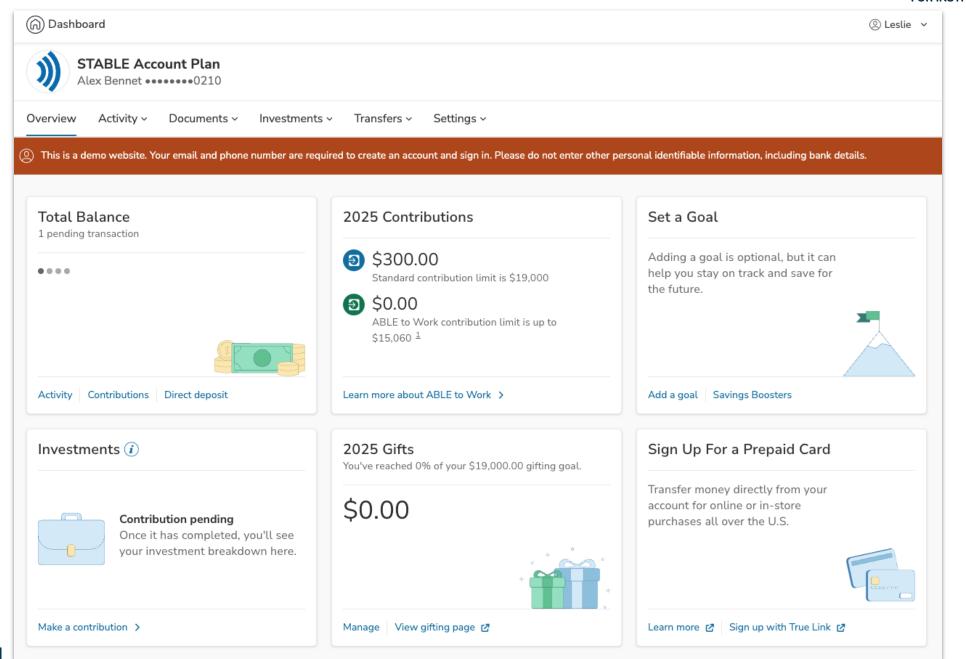


Automatic Contributions & Promo Codes

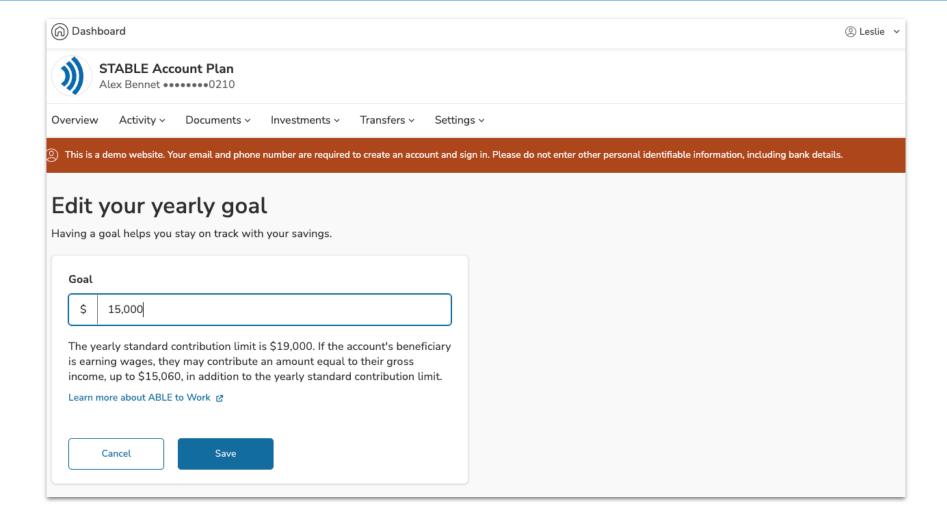


Use Your Account



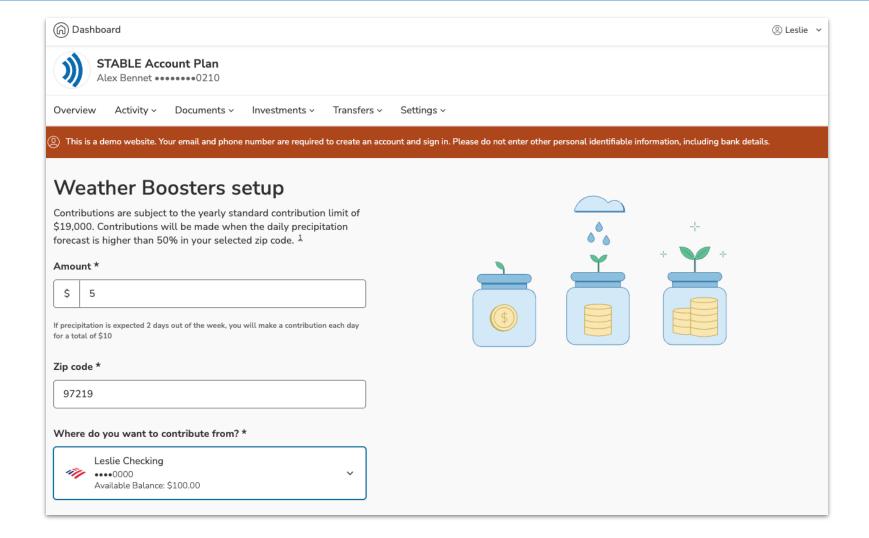


Set a Goal





Boost Your Account





Thank you

DISCLOSURES

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ABLE NRC Resources

ABLE National Resource Center

Visit our website at **ablenrc.org** for:

- ABLE FAQs
- ABLE Decision Guides
- ABLE Programs by State
- ABLE Informational Flyer
- Meet our ABLE Ambassadors
- ABLE to Save Podcast
- ABLE Webinars
- AchievABLE Newsletters



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
- Ready and ABLE to Work and Save
- Understanding ABLE Accounts, Special Needs Trusts and Pooled Trusts



ABLE NRC Toolkits

- Employer Toolkit
- Service Provider Toolkit
- Youth Transition Toolkit
- ABLE NRC Media Toolkit

Coming Soon: Veterans Toolkit



NDI Resources

- National Disability Institute
- American Dream Employment
 Network (ADEN)
- NDI Financial Resilience Center
- NDI Small Business Hub

Upcoming Webinar



ABLE Enrollment for the Service Provider: Steps, Tools and Support July 23, 2025
2-3pmET

Thank You!

