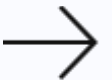




**ABLE** today™

# ABLE accounts

EXPANDING FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND  
COMMUNITY INCLUSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



[WWW.ABLETODAY.ORG](http://WWW.ABLETODAY.ORG)

# ABLETODAY.org



**ABLE today™** is part of the National Association of State Treasurers Foundation (NAST Foundation) campaign to promote ABLE accounts, financial empowerment, and community inclusion for people with disabilities.

**ABLE today™** was generously funded with founding support from Wells Fargo.



# WHO IS THIS PRESENTATION FOR?

## ARE YOU?

### **A person with a disability**

that plans your finances month-to-month to ensure you do not lose benefits like SSI and Medicaid?



### **A family member or caregiver**

that supports a person with a disability but are concerned how they will live, work, and enjoy their community in the future?



### **A disability benefits provider, Representative Payee, financial advisor or trust lawyer**

that monitors the asset limits for people with disabilities?



# MEET AMANDA & DALTON



**AMANDA**  
13 YEARS OLD

Amanda has a physical disability and will utilize Medicaid services throughout her life. Amanda's parents are saving for her to go to college. They are concerned about who will support and care for Amanda when they are gone. Amanda's parents want to plan for the future.



**DALTON**  
34 YEARS OLD

Dalton has a developmental disability and is employed. Dalton receives SSI, which he uses for his monthly rent payments. He wants to purchase his own home one day, but because of SSI limits, Dalton cannot save up money for a down payment. Dalton wants to plan for his future and keep his benefits.

# IMAGINE

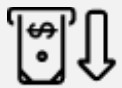
## If People with Disabilities Could...



Save money in their own names –  
and more than just \$2,000



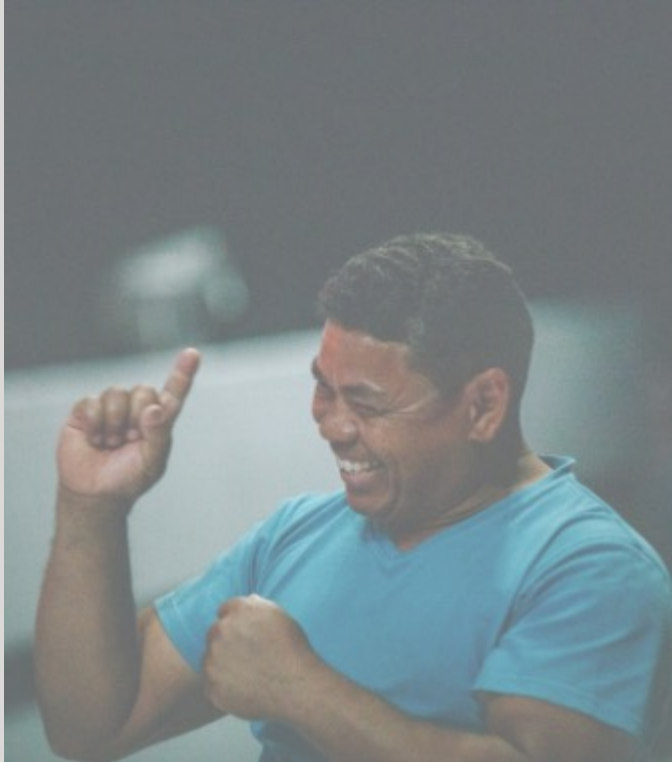
Accumulate wealth without  
losing their eligibility for benefits



Work without having to “spend  
down” their current or future income

Move from a  
**monthly**  
financial plan to a  
**lifetime**  
financial plan

**ABLE ACCOUNTS MAKE THESE CHOICES POSSIBLE**



# What is an ABLE Account?

ABLE accounts are savings and spending tools, built specifically for people with disabilities, which allow individuals to save money **while helping them to protect benefits.**

ABLE accounts are offered under Section 529A of the U.S. Tax Code.

# ABLE ACCOUNTS | BY THE NUMBERS

ACCOUNTS ARE OFFERED THROUGH STATE-RUN ABLE PROGRAMS

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## 46 STATES + DC

Consider your home state's program first for in-state incentives, or research ABLE programs offering nationwide enrollment.



## 162,000+ Total Accounts

There are currently more than 162,000 total ABLE accounts - increasing every day (as of December 2023).

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## Over \$1.74 Billion in Nationwide ABLE accounts

People with disabilities and their families believe are using ABLE accounts as savings, checking and investments accounts. The amount of money flowing through this vehicle keeps growing and growing.

*ABLE Data Source: National Association of State Treasurers*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR STATE'S PROGRAM:**

**[ABLETODAY.ORG/ABLE-PROGRAMS](https://ABLETODAY.ORG/ABLE-PROGRAMS)**

# Key Benefits

**01**

## **Multiple Functions**

Short-term spending and  
long-term savings

**02**

## **Opportunity**

Financial empowerment  
and community inclusion

**03**

## **Spend Down Alternative**

An alternative option  
to “spend down”

**04**

## **Ownership**

ABLE accounts are owned by  
the person with the disability

**05**

## **Easy To Use**

Easy to open, close, and use –  
similar to a regular bank  
account

**06**

## **Tax Benefits**

Tax-free earnings and state  
tax deductions / credits



# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

**DISABILITY BEGAN  
BEFORE AGE 26**

1

ABLE accounts are for individuals whose disability began before age 26. Eligible individuals can open an ABLE account at ANY age.

**LONG-TERM**

2

The disability must be long-term (more than 12 months) and must cause "marked & severe functional limitations."

**DIAGNOSIS**

3

You are eligible for SSI or SSDI; or a doctor has diagnosed you with a disability (physical or mental).

**Note: You do not have to be on public benefits to open an ABLE account**



# How do you open an ABLE account?

Almost all ABLE programs have online enrollment



## Find your ABLE program

See [abletoday.org/able-programs](https://abletoday.org/able-programs) for more info and examples



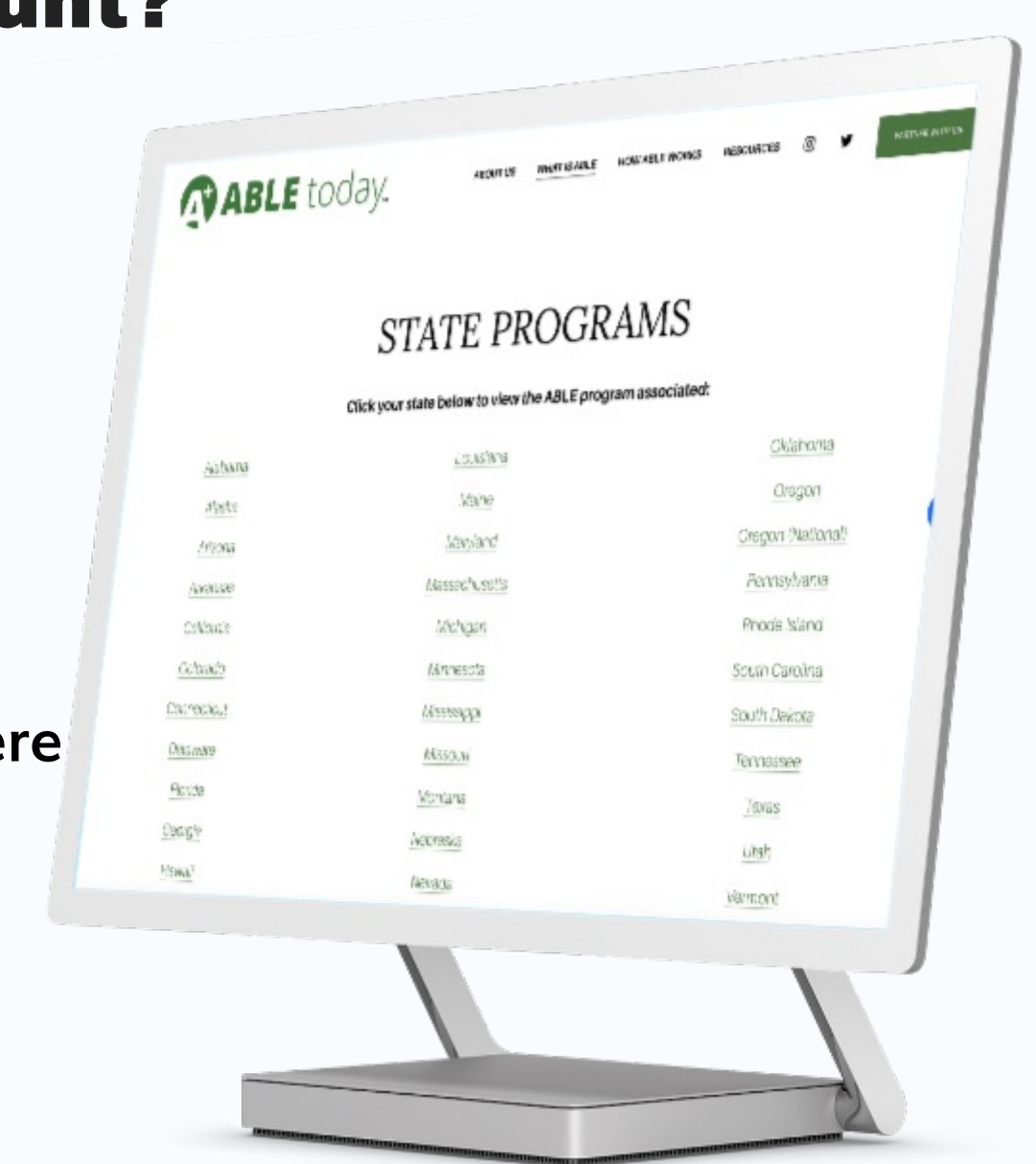
## Most programs let you enroll from anywhere

ABLE Programs allow you to either enroll in a bank branch, enroll online, and/or submit a paper application



## Flexible enrollment

The individual with the disability can open and manage their own account, or a support person can oversee account management



# Who Can Serve as an ABLER Account Support Person?

- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN OPEN AND ADMINISTER ABLER ACCOUNTS
- ABLER SUPPORT PERSON CAN BE AN INDIVIDUAL OR AN ORGANIZATION
- SUPPORTERS CAN MANAGE MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS AT ONCE

**1**

**Power of Attorney**

**2**

**Conservator**

**3**

**Guardian**

**4**

**Spouse**

**5**

**Parent**

**6**

**Sibling**

**7**

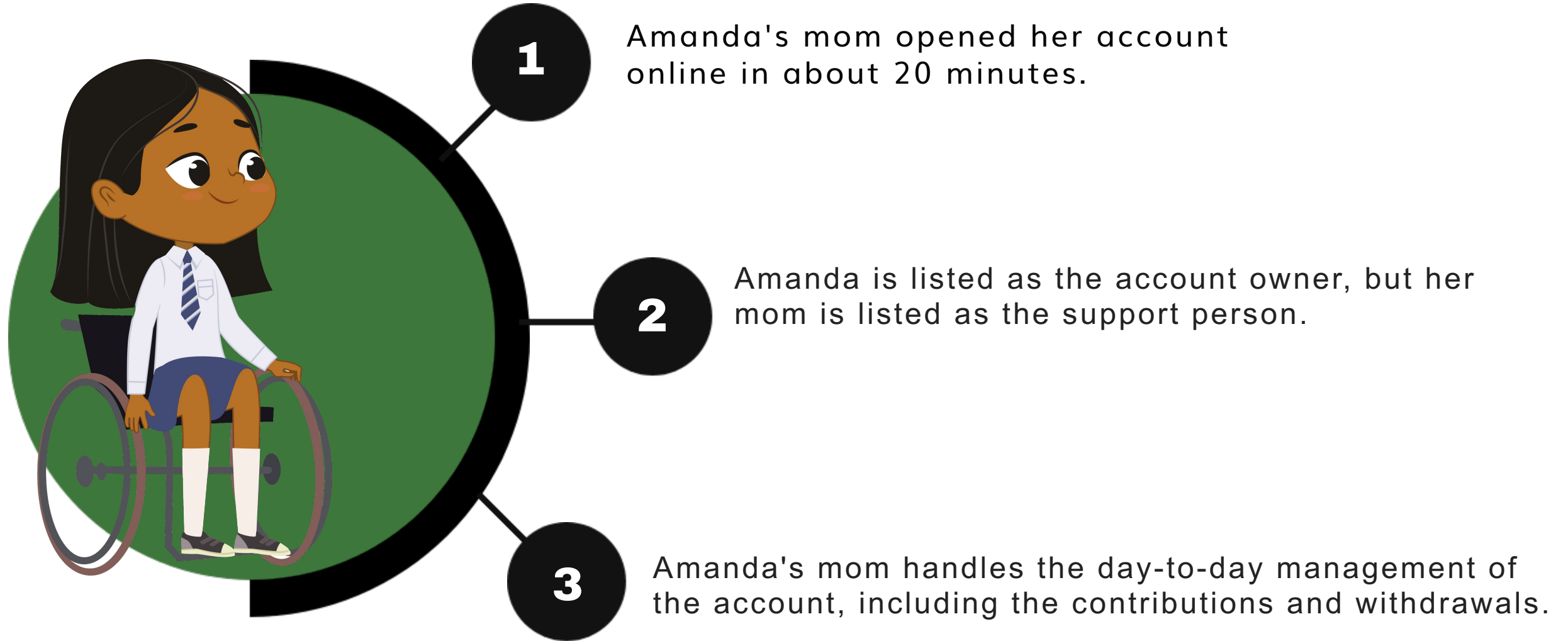
**Grandparent**

**8**

**Representative Payee**

## EXAMPLE SHOWING HOW AMANDA'S ACCOUNT IS ADMINISTERED

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# GETTING MONEY IN

ABLE OFFERS A VARIETY OF OPTIONS FOR GETTING MONEY INTO YOUR ACCOUNT



## General Banking

Deposit money electronically or by check



## Features

Most programs allow payroll deductions and e-gifting



## Rollover

Can also rollover money from a 529 College Savings Account



# How much can you contribute?

ABLE ACCOUNTS HAVE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITS BASED ON  
THE IRS GIFT TAX EXCLUSION and EMPLOYMENT STATUS

## **ANNUAL** **\$18,000**

Contributions can come from any source including directly from the ABLE account enrollee, family, friends, organizations, nonprofits, and employers

## **IF EMPLOYED** **\$32,580**

The person with the disability can contribute up to an extra \$14,580 more every year, if they are not contributing to their workplace retirement account

- \$32,580 for the 48 contiguous States and District of Columbia;
- \$34,770 for Hawaii
- \$36,210 for Alaska

## **BALANCE LIMITS**

**~\$400,000+**

Programs also have balance limits that differ by State  
(\$300,000-\$500,000+)

# Example showing how Dalton contributed to his ABLÉ account.

DALTON SET UP A DIRECT DEPOSIT FEATURE WITH HIS EMPLOYER TO AUTOMATICALLY CONTRIBUTE PART OF HIS PAYCHECK INTO HIS ABLÉ ACCOUNT EVERY MONTH.



## Annual Basis

Dalton can contribute up to \$14,580 (depending on how much income he earns).

## e-gifting

Dalton uses this feature and receives \$5,000 annually from family and friends.

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## Before ABLÉ...

Dalton's resource limit was \$2,000 a month.

## Now...

With an ABLÉ Account he has saved \$19,580.

# ANNUAL COSTS



## Annual Account Fees:

RANGES

**\$0 to \$60**

## Asset-Based Fees:

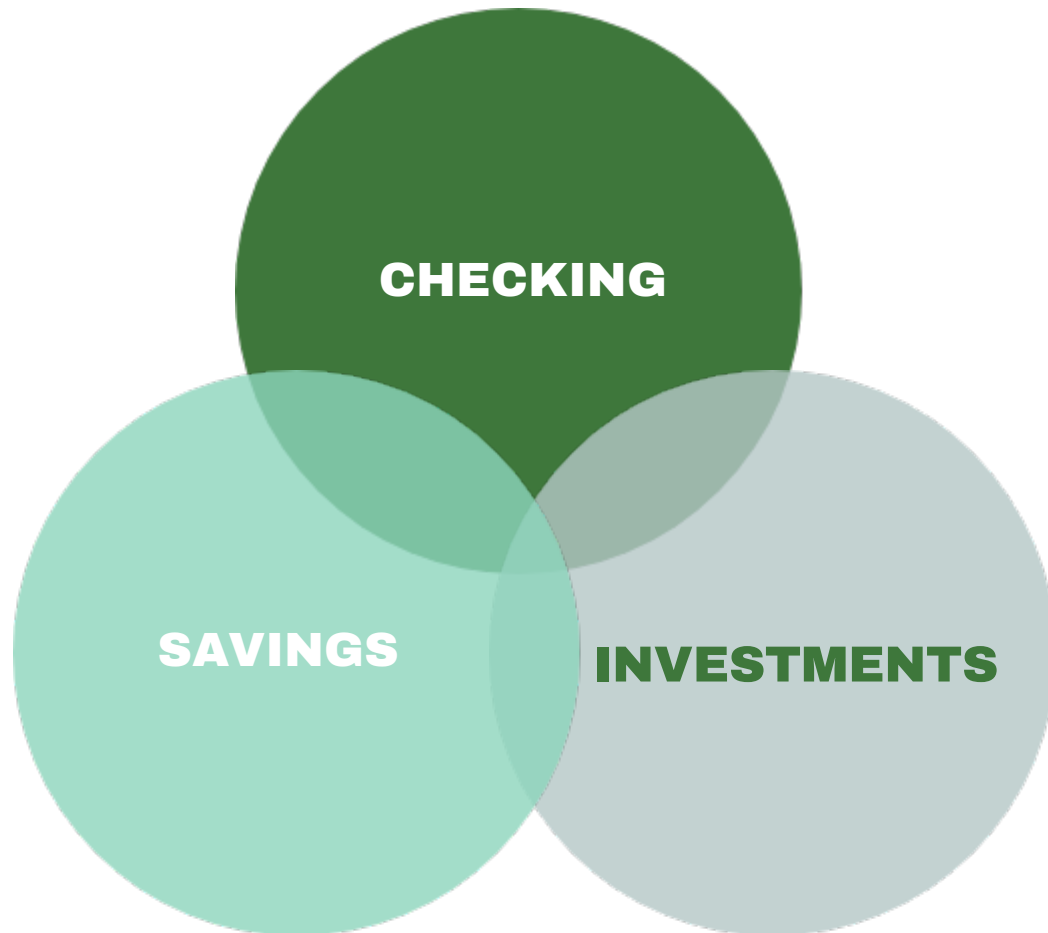
RANGES

**0% to 0.9%**



# INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Most ABLE accounts offer multiple places to put your money:



**You can pick one option or spread your money across multiple options.**

**Choose from:**

- (a) Checking and savings options
  - FDIC insured
  
- (b) Market-based investment options
  - stocks, bonds, etc.

# SPENDING YOUR FUNDS

A "Qualified Disability Expense" (QDEs) is anything that relates to the disability and helps maintain or improve health, independence, or quality of life



Housing and Rent



Transportation



Assistive Technology



Health & Wellness



Basic Living Expenses



Education



Financial Management



Legal Fees

# How to Withdraw Money from Your ABLE Account

DIFFERENT PROGRAMS HAVE VARIOUS OPTIONS

**CHECKBOOKS**



**THIRD PARTY CHECKS**

**DEBIT CARDS**



**BANK TRANSFER**



# Special Benefits Rules

## SSI & MEDICAID

### IF YOU RECEIVE SSI

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BALANCES OVER \$100,000 START  
COUNTING AS A RESOURCE

IF YOU WITHDRAW MONEY TO  
USE FOR HOUSING, YOU MUST  
SPEND IT WITHIN THE SAME  
CALENDAR MONTH

### IF YOU RECEIVE Medicaid

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MEDICAID DOES NOT HAVE A  
BALANCE LIMIT

MEDICAID PAYBACK STILL  
APPLIES TO ABLE, JUST AS IT  
APPLIES TO OTHER BANK  
ACCOUNTS - CHECK WITH YOUR  
STATE TO CONFIRM

# WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE – OR AM CONSIDERING – A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST?

Great! You can use both! Special Needs Trusts (SNTs) can accept larger annual deposits than ABLE accounts can. People frequently put large deposits into a Trust, and then regularly transfer that money to an ABLE account for easy access.

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ABLE Account can complement a Trust. Here are some ways ABLE accounts differ from SNTs:

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## Less Expensive

Are often far less expensive to set up and maintain



## No Legal Help

Do not require an attorney's help



## Buy More Things

They expand the purchasing power of a Trust



## Tax Benefits

Some states offer deductions or credits for contributions



## Ownership

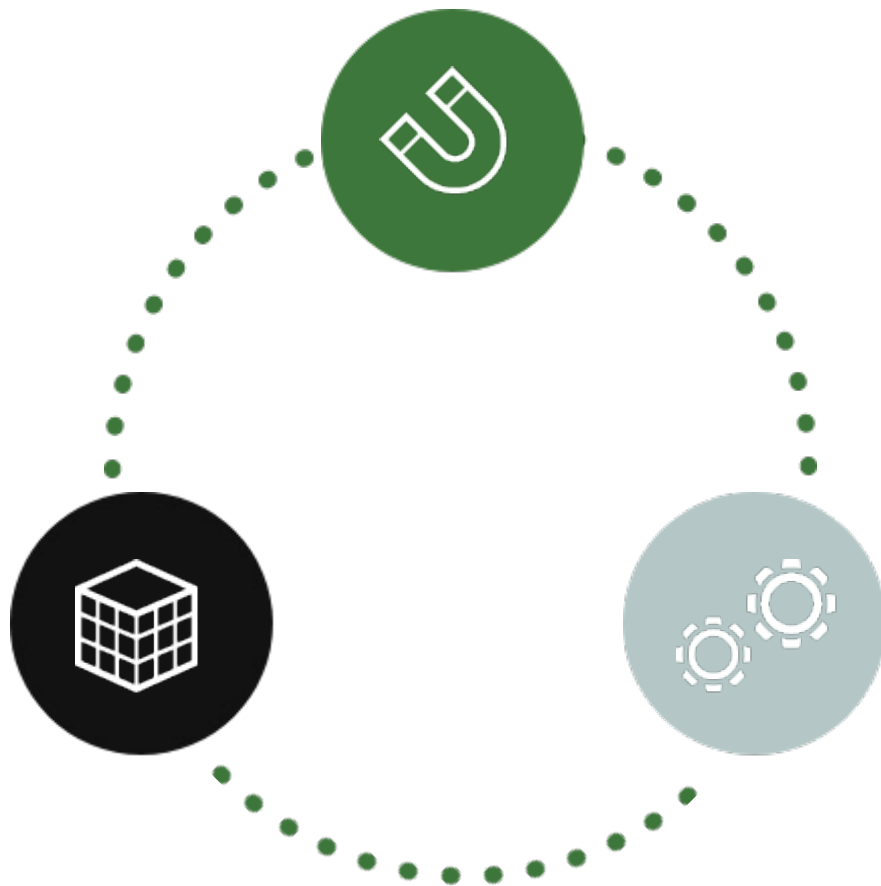
Can be established, administered, and owned by an individual with a disability



## Independence

Gives people with disabilities additional autonomy to save and spend their own money

# Next Steps...



## **RESEARCH ABLE PROGRAMS**

Research ABLE Programs via the **ABLE today™** website, [abletoday.org](https://abletoday.org)

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## **SPREAD THE WORD**

Help us spread the word! Share via email, social media, and with your network

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## **REQUEST A PRESENTATION**

Reach out via [info@abletoday.org](mailto:info@abletoday.org) and let us know if you would like a group presentation

# RESOURCES

ABLE ACCOUNTS ARE A GAME CHANGER FOR FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION. **TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:**



[abletoday.org/asl](https://abletoday.org/asl)



[abletoday.org/ssa](https://abletoday.org/ssa)



[abletoday.org/podcast](https://abletoday.org/podcast)

[abletoday.org/regulations](https://abletoday.org/regulations)

[abletoday.org/for-employers](https://abletoday.org/for-employers)

**THANK  
YOU!**

