

NY ABLE Program

New York Association on Independent Living Conference

September 2017



NYS COMPTROLLER

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What is ABLE?

ABLE helps individuals with disabilities and their families to:

- Save for disability- related expenses;
- Earn income on investments free from taxes when used for qualified disability expenses;* and
- Preserve their ability to benefit from supplemental security income (SSI), Medicaid, and other federal programs.

*Investment returns are not guaranteed, and you could lose money by investing in the program



NY ABLE Program

- Enrollment opened mid-August 2017.
- Website www.mynyable.org.
- Toll-free assistance available 8 AM to 8 PM, Monday through Friday at 1-855-5NY-ABLE (855-569-2253).



Eligibility



Who Is Eligible?

*New York State residents with disabilities which were present before age 26, **AND***

- Are entitled to SSI or SSDI because of their disability; **OR**
- Have a written diagnosis from a physician indicating a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which results in marked and severe functional limitations that can be expected to last for at least a year or can cause death; **OR**
- Are classified as blind, as defined in Social Security Act; **OR**
- Have a disability that is included on the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions. (Link to list provided on website.)



NY ABLE Accounts

- Eligible individuals can open the account for themselves or an authorized individual can open an account on their behalf.
- Account owners are also beneficiaries.
- Anyone can contribute to a NY ABLE Account.
- Account contributions are not tax deductible.



Tax Advantages

- ABLE savings may grow and be withdrawn tax-free, provided that savings are used for qualified, disability-related expenses. ¹
- Saving and investment earnings are tax-deferred, maximizing the return on investment. ²

1 Earnings on non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as applicable state and local income taxes.

2 Investment returns are not guaranteed, and you could lose money by investing in the Program.



Qualified Disability Expenses

A Qualified Disability Expense is ANY expense that is incurred as a result of living with a disability and is intended to improve quality of life. Qualified expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Education
- Health and wellness
- Housing
- Transportation
- Legal fees
- Financial management
- Employment training and support
- Assistive technology
- Personal support services
- Oversight and monitoring
- Funeral and burial expenses



Impact on SSI Benefits

- Balances of \$100,000 or less are excluded from individual's SSI resource limit.
- Only the amount OVER \$100,000 is counted against the limit, along with assets held in non-ABLE accounts.
- If a NY ABLE account causes an account owner to exceed the SSI resource limit, then SSI benefits will be suspended until the account balance no longer exceeds the resource limit.¹

¹ The NY ABLE Disclosure Documents will provide details on SSI suspension and requirements on when you use the funds, to prevent suspension of benefits. Please note that following the death of the account owner, the state Medicaid plan may file a claim against the Account Owner or the Account itself for medical assistance paid under the state's Medicaid plan after the establishment of the account. Please see the Plan Disclosure Documents for more information.



User-Friendly Access

NY ABLE opens will offer the ability to:

- Open an account online with as little as \$25;
- Access the account 24/7 by phone or online from a:
 - PC
 - Tablet
 - Mobile device



Contributions to NY ABLE

Maximum Contribution

- Contribute up to \$14,000 per year.
- Maximum Account: \$100,000.
- Contributions are monitored by Account Manager to assure that annual limit and maximum account are not exceeded.



Funding a NY ABLE Account

Contributions may be made:

- online at mynyable.org;
- by check;
- via payroll direct deposit if offered by employer,
- with recurring contributions;
- using electronic funds transfer;
- by selecting an online gifting option called Ugift; or
- electing to rollover an account opened in another state's ABLE program.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will I have to prove eligibility?

No. However, you should have a record of a doctor's signed diagnosis, a benefits verification letter from the Social Security Administration or other relevant documentation for account verification, as needed.

Will I have to prove that withdrawals are for qualified disability expenses?

Not at the time of the withdrawal. Annually, NY ABLE will report the total amount of your withdrawals to the IRS and the date and amount of each of your withdrawals to the Social Security Administration. In the event that either entity wants to verify the expenses, it's recommended that you keep detailed records.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I have more than one NY ABLE account?

No. You're limited to one ABLE account, except in the case of a rollover from another qualified ABLE program. This extends beyond NY ABLE to include accounts in other ABLE programs.

Can friends and family make contributions into my account?

Absolutely. Anyone can contribute directly to your NY ABLE account. No matter who contributes, you, the account owner or authorized individual, retain control over the account.

How often can I change my investments?

Twice per calendar year. You can change your investment options for any NEW contributions at any time.



NY ABLE Investment Options



Investment Options

NY ABLE offers a choice of investment options.

- Choices range from more aggressive options seeking higher returns to more conservative options designed to preserve investments.
- FDIC-Insured checking option offered through a bank will allow eligible individuals to withdraw money using a debit card or check.
 - - Debit card provided using widely accessible Allpoint banking network.

There is a program maintenance fee of \$45 - \$55 annually, and an investment fee of .40%. If checking/debit option is selected, separate banking fees may apply based on features selected. Details are provided in the NY ABLE Program Disclosure Booklet.



Withdrawing from NY ABLE

Eligible individuals will be able to withdraw funds from their NY ABLE savings by:

- going online;
- calling the toll-free customer service line;
- using a NY ABLE debit card or check (if contributing to the Checking Option); or
- setting up automatic withdrawals.



NY ABLE Web Page

www.mynyable.org





[Benefits & Eligibility](#)

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NY ABLE - HELPING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACHIEVE A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE.

[Enroll Now](#)

We're making NY ABLE work for you.

[About NY ABLE](#)

What is ABLE?

The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 allows those with disabilities to save for qualified disability expenses without the risk of losing their benefits from assistance programs like SSI and Medicaid.

[Benefits](#) [Eligibility](#)



We're here to help.

Call us at **1.855.5NY.ABLE** (1.855.569.2253)

Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET

Additional Resource

ABLE National Resource Center

www.ablenrc.org

- Webinars
- News
- Legislative updates
- Other information





The ABLE Advantage

Like college or health savings accounts, people with disabilities can now fund essential expenses with tax-advantaged savings **MORE**

What We're About

The **ABLE National Resource Center** (ANRC) is a collaborative whose supporters share the goal of accelerating the design and availability of ABLE accounts for the benefit of individuals with disabilities and their families. We bring together the investment, support and resources of the country's largest and most influential national disability

10 Things
You Should Know About
ABLE ACCOUNTS

Join
OUR MAILING LIST
For Important Information

TAKE THE
Pledge
AMERICA Saves
START SMALL. THINK BIG.

Questions

1-855-5NY-ABLE

(8 AM – 8 PM, Monday through Friday)



Thank you!

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