

Welcome!

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

Please note: This webinar is being recorded and the materials, including a transcript, will be placed in the [webinars resource section of the ABLE National Resource Center website.](#)



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Celebrating 10 Years of ABLE: Its Impact and Vision for the Future

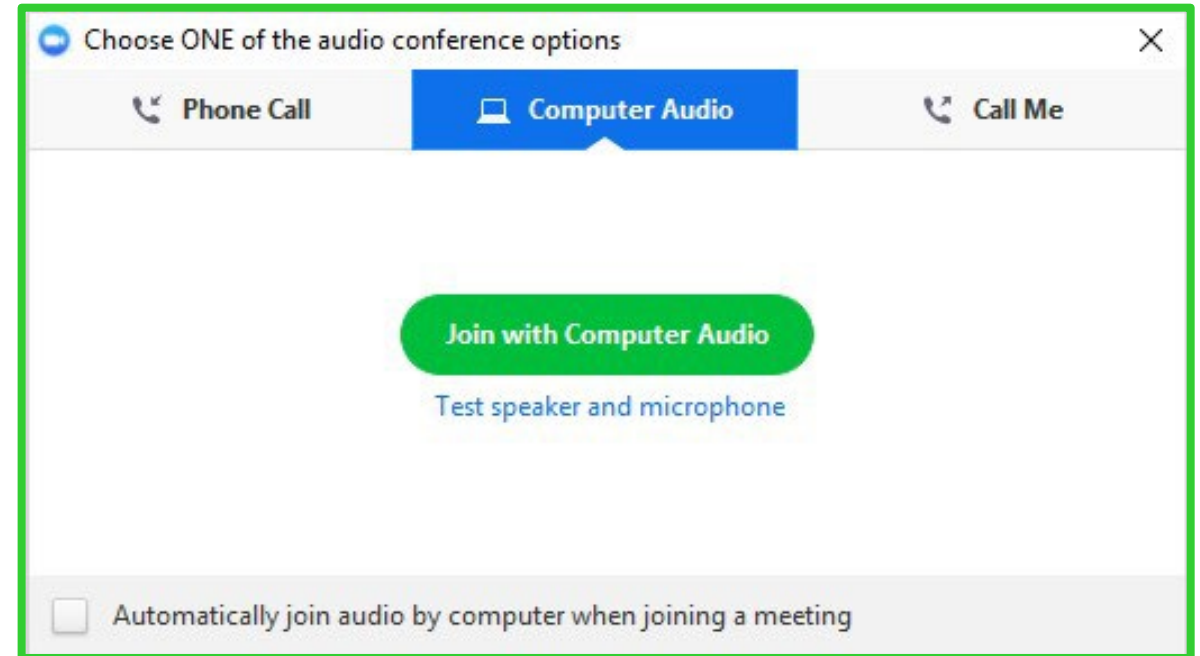
December 18, 2024, 2-3:00 ET

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- **Questions:** We will answer questions placed in the Q&A box during the webinar. If your question is not answered or if you are listening by phone or Facebook live, please email info@ablenrc.org or visit our website www.ablenrc.org and contact us if our resources do not provide the answer you are seeking.
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- **Please note:** This webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed at the On Demand [webinars section of the ABLE National Resource Center website.](#)

ABLE National Resource Center

The [ABLE National Resource Center](#) (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 for 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.

Moderator

Jody Ellis
Director
ABLE National Resource Center
National Disability Institute



Additional Team Support



Laurie Schaller
ABLE Subject Matter Expert



Marlene Ulisky
ABLE Subject Matter Expert



Cheyenne Rivers
ABLE NRC Project Coordinator

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome to the Celebration
- ❖ The Past: ABLE Act Milestones
- ❖ The Present: ABLE NRC Ambassador Perspectives
- ❖ The Future: Vision of Ambassadors & NDI Policy Director

Welcome & Introduction

Thomas Foley
Executive Director
National Disability Institute

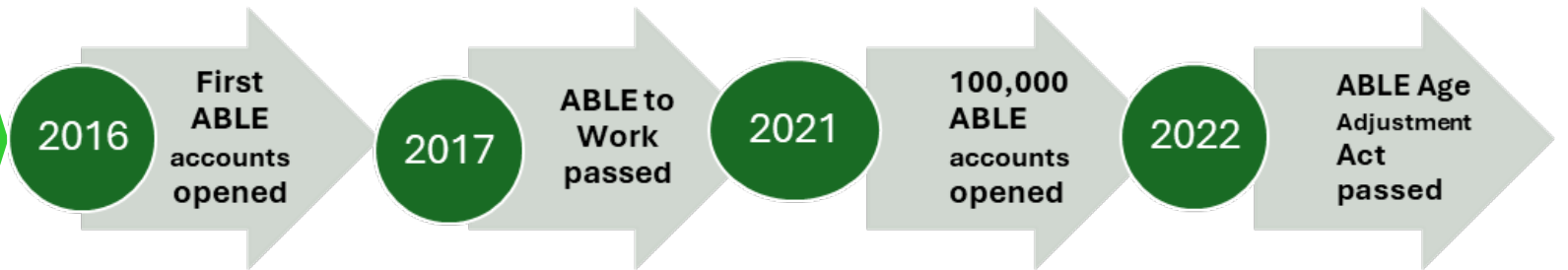


The ABLER Act

The proposed regulations of the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act were passed by Congress and signed into law on December 19, 2014. The final (current) regulations were published on November 19, 2020. ABLE accounts fall under Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Service tax Code.

In today's webinar, we will celebrate the ten years of impact by highlighting the past, present and the future vision of ABLE accounts!

The Past: Key Achievements of the ABLE Act Over Past Decade



Impact of ABLER Accounts

4th Quarter 2016

- 4,064 accounts opened
- \$13 million in assets under management
- \$3,420 average balance

3rd Quarter 2024

- Over 187,210 accounts opened
- \$2.189 billion in assets under management
- \$11,692 average balance

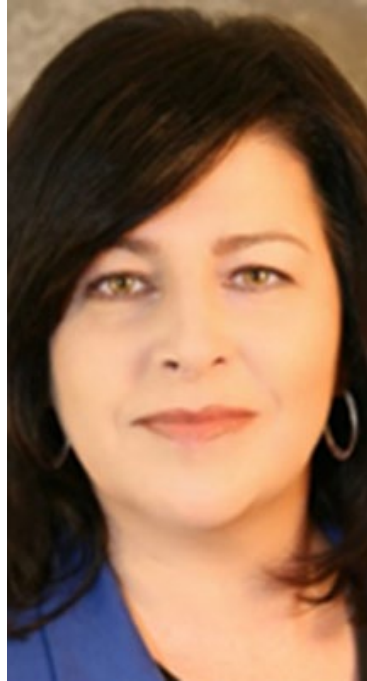
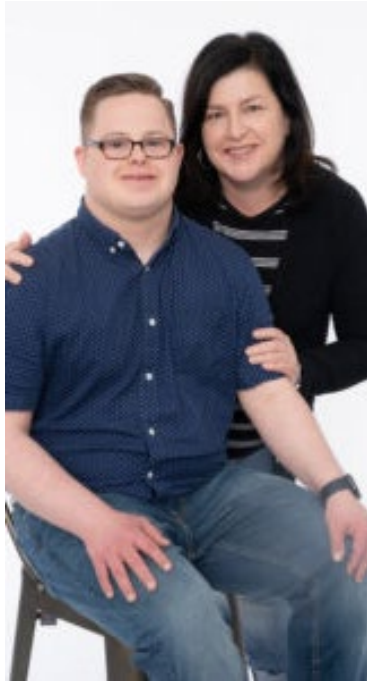
The Present: Benefits of ABLE

ABLE accounts provide significant advantages for individuals with disabilities:

- Savings do not affect most means tested federally funded benefits
- Savings supplement but do not replace other benefits
- Others can deposit funds directly into ABLE without it counting as income
- Growth is tax-free when used for qualified disability expenses
- Enhances financial independence and security
- Supports employment with ABLE to Work provision

ABLE Ambassadors

Denise Gehringer, parent of Jacob, ABLE account owner



Emily Munson, ABLE account owner





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Building a Better Financial Future

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE ABLE PROGRAM

Presented By

LYDIA XINZHEN ZHANGSUN BROWN, J.D.

Director of Public Policy

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Growing ABLE's Impact

- Three provisions set to expire in 2025
 - ABLE to Work
 - additional contribution by working people with disabilities
 - maximum is prior year's individual federal poverty level or the person's yearly pay
 - ABLE Saver's Credit
 - nonrefundable saver's credit for ABLE contributions up to \$1,000
 - 529 to ABLE rollover
 - rollover from education savings account without income tax liability
- Bipartisan support for ENABLE Act to make all three provisions permanent



Increasing Participation in ABLE



- Require and fund financial literacy and consumer empowerment programs in primary, secondary, postsecondary, and vocational education
- Mandate inclusion of information about ABLE accounts in financial literacy programs for both disabled and nondisabled students
- Include financial literacy goals in Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) for students with disabilities
- Provide informational materials on ABLE contributions with employer-managed retirement savings vehicles and relevant benefits
- Train vocational counselors, transition specialists, and other direct support workers and care providers on ABLE program

Increasing Financial Capability

- Increase annual contribution cap (currently \$18,000)
- Ensure parity between ABLE contributions used for retirement asset-building and other retirement savings vehicles
 - Permit employer match contributions
 - Extend equivalent tax credit for retirement savings contributions
- Remove total asset cap (currently \$100,000)
- Establish matching contribution programs
- Prevent Medicaid asset recovery on death of ABLE account owner
- Ensure decision-making protections for ABLE account owners under 18 or under guardianship



Long-term Policy Objectives



- Increase and ultimately remove asset limits from SSI, Medicaid, other means-tested benefits programs
- Increase participation of people with disabilities in competitive, integrated employment
 - Higher wages
 - Job retention
 - Retirement savings
- Increase access to entrepreneurship and small business ownership opportunity for people with disabilities
 - Access to capital
 - Access to business development resources
 - Access to financial planning
 - Disabled-owned certification (and others)

Call to Action

Join us in shaping the future of ABLE accounts:

- Engage in advocacy and policy discussions
- Continue to build your knowledge by exploring ABLE NRC resources
- Connect with us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and LinkedIn @theABLENRC
- Subscribe to the AchievABLE newsletter
- Share your story on the transformational power of an ABLE account with your networks.



ABLE NRC Resources



of my ABLER account, I will have a better and more financially secure f
TAYLOR — ABLE ACCOUNT OWNER

ABLE Success – Learn from Others

ABLE NRC Ambassadors are ABLE account owners and family members who share their stories to encourage others to open an ABLE account.

ABLE National Resource Center Website

- [ABLE FAQs](#)
- [ABLE Decision Guides](#)
- [ABLE Home Ownership and Inheritance Guides](#)
- [ABLE Programs by State](#)
- [ABLE Informational Flyer](#)
- [Meet our ABLE Ambassadors](#)
- [ABLE to Save Podcast](#)
- [ABLE Webinars](#)
- [AchievABLE Newsletters](#)





ABLE NRC Toolkits

- [Employer Toolkit](#)
- [Service Provider Toolkit](#)
- [Youth Transition Toolkit](#)
- [ABLE NRC Media Toolkit](#)



NDI Resources

- [National Disability Institute](#)
- [American Dream Employment Network \(ADEN\)](#)
- [NDI Assistive Technology Loan Program and AFP List](#)
- [NDI Financial Resilience Center](#)
- [NDI Small Business Hub](#)

Celebrating

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OF ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE

THANK YOU!