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## Florida's Disability Savings and Investment Program

## ABLE Outline

- History and Legislation
- Program Management for Florida
- Eligibility
- How It Works with Public Benefits
- Enrollment and Account Management

# ABLE stands for “Achieving a Better Life Experience” – and it was made possible by the passage of the ABLE Act.

Passed in December 2014 – added a new section to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 529A

Allowed states to create tax-advantaged savings/investment accounts

Encourages individuals with disabilities to save after tax dollars to support health, independence, and quality of life

**Similar to:**

529 College Savings Plan / Checking or Savings Account / Special Needs Trust / Roth IRA

## The Florida ABLÉ Act

In July 2015, the State of Florida created ABLÉ United, a registered not-for-profit and direct support organization of the Florida Prepaid College Board (Florida Statutes Section 1009.986 - 1009.988). One year later on July 1, 2016, the program officially launched.



## We ARE NOT the Able Trust

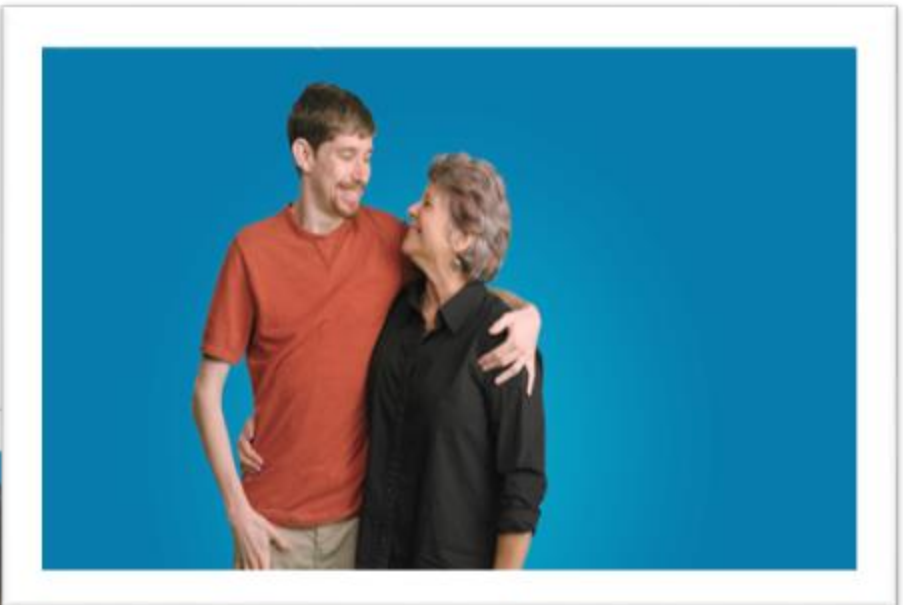
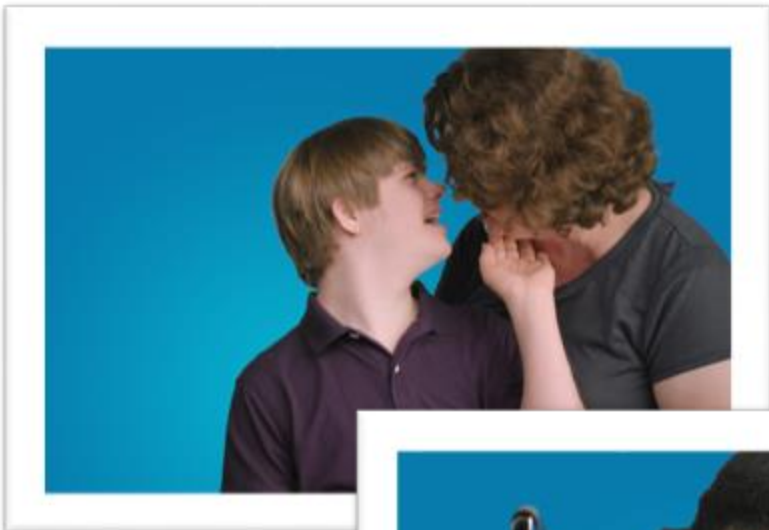
The mission of The Able Trust is to be a key leader in providing opportunities for successful employment for Floridians with disabilities.



Employment Focused



Savings Focused





# Eligibility

## **Eligible individuals are allowed one ABLÉ account nationwide and must also:**

- Be a Florida resident (ABLE United specific)
- Have a disability with onset prior to age 26 (going up to age 46 in 2026)
- Meet severity requirements of disability by either:
  - Receive SSI
  - Receive SSDI
  - Self-certify the beneficiary has a disability that is “severe”

## **If selecting self-certify as an option, the individual must:**

- Have a diagnosis of a physical or mental impairment prior to age 26
- Have a disability that is “marked and severe with functional limitations”
- Have a disability that is expected to last for at least 12 months

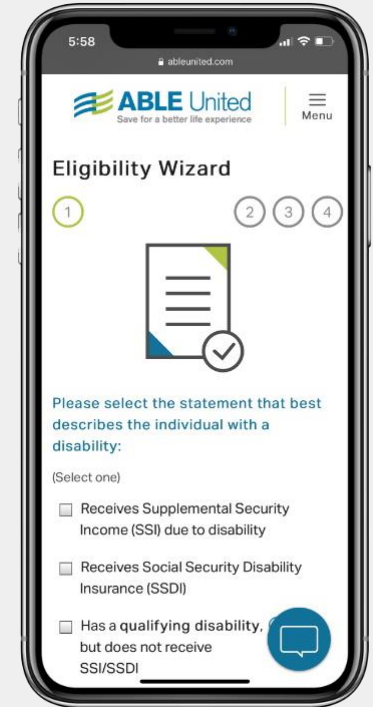


## **If I move out of state, do I have to close my ABLE United account and open an ABLE account in that state?**

No, it's just fine to keep your ABLE United account as it is all managed online – however, that state's ABLE program might have unique benefits for its residents, in the same way that ABLE United is the best value for Floridians.

A **qualifying disability** includes individuals with a diagnosis such as:

- **Developmental Disorders:** Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, developmental delays and learning disabilities
- **Intellectual Disability:** Mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disability
- **Psychiatric Disorders:** Schizophrenia, Major depressive disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Anorexia Nervosa, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), Bipolar Disorder
- **Nervous Disorders:** Blindness, Deafness, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Spina Bifida, Juvenile-onset Huntington's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Severe sensorineural hearing loss, Congenital cataracts
- **Congenital Anomalies:** Chromosomal abnormalities, including Down Syndrome, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Xeroderma Pigmentosum, Spinal muscular atrophy, Fragile X Syndrome, Edwards Syndrome
- **Respiratory Disorders:** Cystic Fibrosis
- **Other:** Tetralogy of Fallot, Hypoplastic left heart syndrome, End-stage liver disease, Juvenile-onset rheumatoid arthritis, Sickle cell disease, Hemophilia, and any other disability not listed



# Ownership

The individual with a disability, or the beneficiary, is the owner of the ABLE account – however, another person may assist in opening or maintaining the ABLE account as an authorized signatory, such as:

- Legal Guardian
- Power of Attorney
- Parent, Spouse, Sibling, Grandparent
- Representative Payee (Individual or Organization)

This authorized signatory is commonly referred to as the Authorized Legal Representative (ALR).



# **ABLE and Public Benefits**

## Specifics on Medicaid

Medicaid is a federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited income and resources. Florida has Home and Community Based Care Service Waivers, such as the iBudget and Long-Term Care, that provide a robust set of services and supports to those with significant disabilities.

- Funds in (or withdrawn from) an ABLE account are disregarded when determining eligibility for Medicaid.
- Recent Florida law states Medicaid may not file a claim on an ABLE account.
- Generally, after all outstanding qualified disability expenses have been paid, leftover funds go to the beneficiary's estate.

## Specifics on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal supplement program that provides cash to meet basic needs for housing. Generally, funds in (or withdrawn from) an ABLE account are disregarded as a resource when determining eligibility for SSI.

A few rules:

- First \$100,000 in ABLE account does not count as a resource.
- All housing and non-qualified expenses withdrawn, but not spent in the same month, count as a resource.
- Earned/unearned income directly deposited into an ABLE Account still counts as earnings and may reduce SSI benefits.

Program submits all account information to Social Security monthly to review SSI account holders who have ABLE accounts.

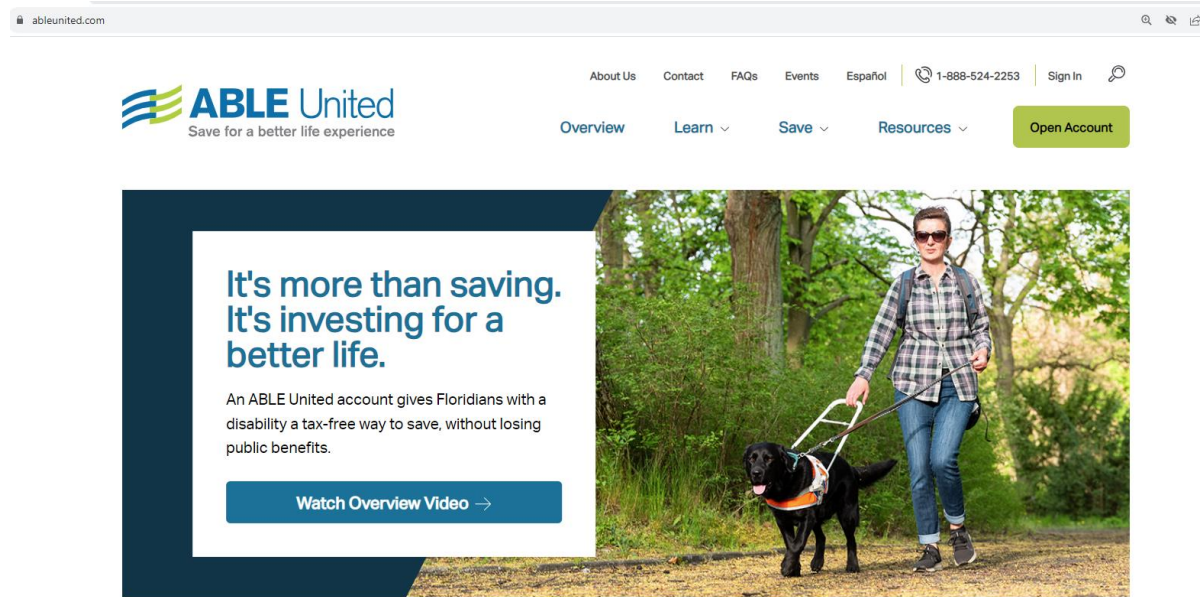
For more information, review the Social Security POMS

<http://policy.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0501130740>



## Enrollment and Account Management

# Enroll Online



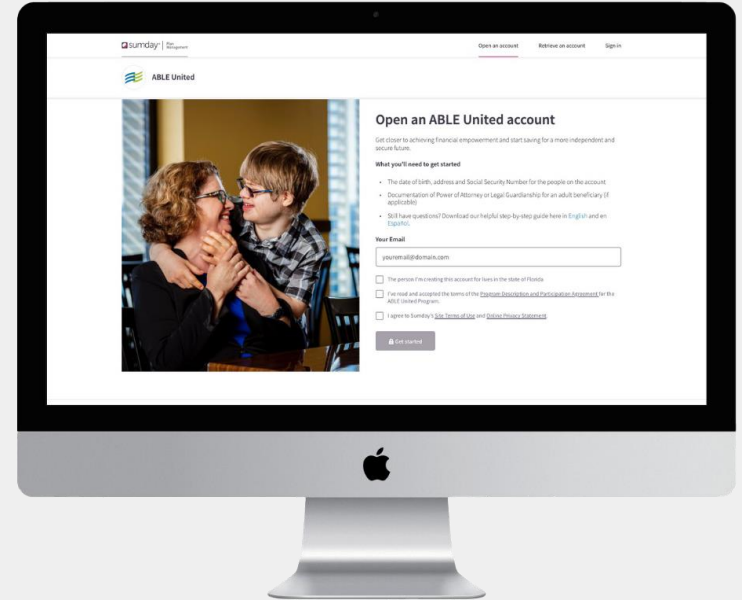
Visit [www.ableunited.com](http://www.ableunited.com) to get started

Generally, banks and credit unions do not offer ABLE accounts



## Here's what you'll need to open an account:

- An email address
- The date of birth, address and Social Security Number for the individuals on the account
- Self-certification if opening on behalf of Beneficiary
- Banking information
- Minimum \$25 contribution to the account
- Investment selections



# Contribute

Generally, contributions are considered gifts (not income) to the individual with a disability.

## **Contribution considerations include:**

- A total of \$18,000 can be contributed per calendar year
- Opportunity to rollover funds from 529 college savings plan
- Can contribute leftover SSA funds – however, additional rules apply such as Rep Payee must manage the ABLE account
- ABLE to Work allows working beneficiary not saving for retirement can contribute above \$18,000
  - Compensation includible in the designated beneficiary's gross income for the taxable year, or an amount equal to the poverty line for a one-person household, as determined for the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the taxable year begins (Florida = \$14,580 for 2024)
  - Individual putting earned income into account, still counts as earned income



**ABLE United**



## Contribute to Steven's Future

Looking for the perfect gift? A gift contribution to an ABLE account can help pay for everyday expenses and care down the road. Plus, it's easier than wrapping a present. Thank you for contributing to Steven's future.

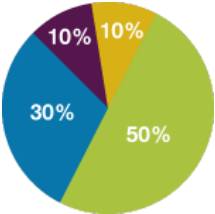
**Make a contribution**

# Investment and Savings Options

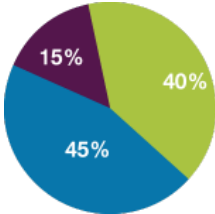
## FDIC-insured savings fund



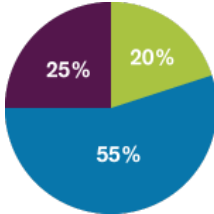
## Portfolio Options



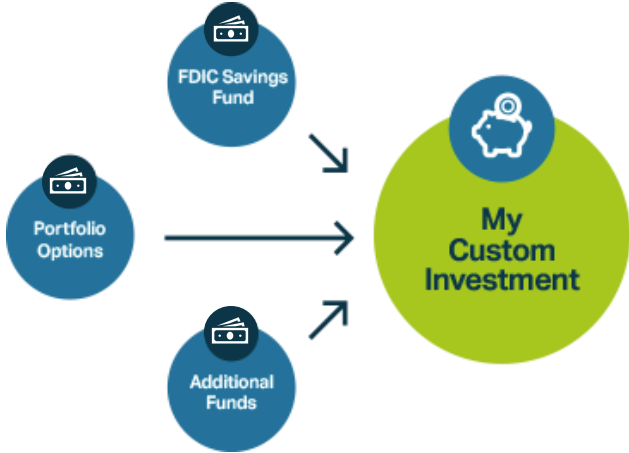
Conservative



Moderate



Growth



## Additional Funds

- Money Market Fund – *Florida Prime*
- U.S. Bond Fund - *Vanguard*
- U.S. Stock Fund - *Vanguard*
- International Stock Fund - *BlackRock*

## Withdraw

ACH to connected bank /  
Prepaid Card

2 - 3 Business Days

Check request online

5 - 7 Business Days

### Additional considerations:

- Earnings are tax-free if withdrawals are used for qualified disability expenses
- Choose which investment to withdraw from – allows to separate savings from investing
- Keep documentation for the IRS and/or SSA

The ABLE Visa® Prepaid Card is issued by Sunrise Banks N.A., St. Paul, MN 55103, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. This card can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Use of this card constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in the Cardholder Agreement.

## Qualified Disability Expenses



Health



Education



Housing



Transportation



Legal Fees



Financial  
Management



Employment Training  
And Support



Assistive Technology  
and Personal Support



Oversight and  
Monitoring



Funeral and Burial



Other Expenses Approved by the  
Treasury Regulations

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## Do I have to file taxes on an ABLE United Account?

Each ABLE United account is treated separately, and each will receive separate tax documents. Please consult your tax advisor for information about whether you need to file taxes for an ABLE United account.

At the end of each year, you will receive a 5498-QA showing contributions and the establishment of an ABLE account.

If a withdrawal was made from the ABLE United account, you will receive a 1099-QA showing the earnings and basis of the distributions.

## Costs Associated

Free to enroll into an ABLE United account

- Investment administration fee ranges from 0.00% to 0.290% (annualized) of the account balance (up to \$29 if you maintained \$10,000 in the account all year)
  - *FDIC investment option has no fees*
- *Optional* \$10.00 annual fee for paper statements
- *Optional* ABLE Visa® Prepaid Card \$2.50 per month

## Best Value for Floridians

ABLE United offers the best value for Florida residents

- No application fee
- No monthly account maintenance fee
- No paper check request fee
- Program administered by Florida Prepaid





Connect  
with Us



**ABLE** United

Save for a better life experience

## Online

- Visit us at [ableunited.com/contact](https://ableunited.com/contact)
- Spanish resources available at [ableunited.com/espanol](https://ableunited.com/espanol)
- Available via live chat (look for icon on bottom right)
- Check Events calendar for in-person, virtual events, and opportunity to book a one-on-one appointment

## Phone

*Monday– Friday, 9am – 6 pm ET*

- 1-888-524-ABLE (2253)
- Florida Relay Dial 7-1-1



## **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Scan the QR code below to sign up  
for the next monthly Ask ABLE meeting.



[ableunited.com](http://ableunited.com)

# Thank you!

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The information contained in this presentation is for general information purposes only and does not constitute tax, legal, financial or investment advice. Performance of the program discussed herein is not guaranteed and is subject to market conditions, among other things. Carefully consider objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. As with any investment, it is possible to lose money by investing in this program. Please read the Program Description and Participation Agreement carefully ([www.ableuntied.com/pdpa](http://www.ableuntied.com/pdpa)).