

# **ABLE Accounts**

#### What is the ABLE Act?

ABLE (A.B.L.E.) is an acronym for Achieving a Better Life Experience. The ABLE Act was passed in December 2014, and it allows people with disabilities and their families to set up a tax-free savings account that can be used to pay for expenses related to the person's disability. Funds in the account are generally not counted for the purposes of federally means-tested programs, such as Social Security (SSI and SSDI) and Medicaid.

## Who is Eligible for an ABLE Account?

An individual who becomes disabled before age 26 and receives SSI or SSDI or is otherwise deemed "severely disabled" as documented by a physician, is eligible to open an ABLE Account, also known as a 529 A. An ABLE account may be opened by the person with a disability or a family member/guardian of a person with a disability, as long as the participant meets the criteria for eligibility. An account may be opened for anyone of any age. An individual may have only one ABLE account in his or her name. Anyone can contribute to the account. Ugift via <a href="https://www.ugiftable.com/">https://www.ugiftable.com/</a> is a service that allows others to contribute to a loved one's ABLE account.

# **How Can I Open an ABLE Account?**

Several states have established ABLE accounts, and some states (including Indiana) allow non-residents to participate in their ABLE program. Non-residents should consider tax andother implications of investing in out-of-state plans. Indiana offers the *INvestABLE* plan. Consumers can open an account by going to the website: <a href="https://savewithable.com/in/home.html">https://savewithable.com/in/home.html</a> or by calling (888) 609-3457. No more than the annual gift-tax exemption (currently \$17,000) may be contributed to an individual's ABLE account yearly.

### What are the Advantages of an ABLE Account?

An ABLE account allows families to save for costs related to everyday needs, special and common activities, and for "qualify of life" expenses. Other than basic living expenses, expenditures related to education, health and wellness, housing, transportation, legal fees, financial management, employment, assistive technology, personal support, and funeral and burial expenses also qualify. Withdrawals from an ABLE account for qualified disability expenses, as well as any money earned through the account, are tax-free.Individuals eligible for Social Security and Medicaid benefits are still able to receivethese benefits. For accounts that reach \$100,000, SSI benefits may be affected.

For more information, visit Indiana Family to Family's <u>Fact Sheets</u> or contact us by phone at 844-323-4636 or via our website at: <a href="https://www.inf2f.org/contact-us.html">https://www.inf2f.org/contact-us.html</a>.

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated August 2023. Please check <a href="https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html">https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html</a> for the most recent edition.

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To learn more about these and other programs, contact Indiana Family to Family. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services. especially those available to individuals with special health care needs.

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