

# ABLE United The Basics on ABLE Accounts

John Finch, Director ABLE United Florida Prepaid College Board

# ABLE Accounts

## What is ABLE?

#### Achieving a Better Life Experience.

<u>The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life</u> <u>Experience Act</u> encourages individuals with disabilities to **save private funds** to support health, independence, and **quality of life**.

"No longer would individuals with disabilities have to stand aside and watch others use IRSsanctioned tools to lay the groundwork for a brighter future. They would be able to as well." **Congressman Ander Crenshaw, Florida** 







### **ABLE Accounts**

#### Save Like Never Before.

A tax-free savings and investment account established to support disability expenses while maintaining government benefits.

- Save tax-free for future expenses
- Save with the help from family & friends
- Save on fees best value for Floridians
- Save while maintaining federal benefits



## Why an ABLE account?

#### Save for future qualified disability expenses.

Qualified disability expenses, which include "living expenses," are not required to be medically necessary or to be limited for the sole benefit of the individual with a disability.





# Eligibility

A Florida resident who is blind or has a disability with onset prior to age 26 and meets the severity requirements for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

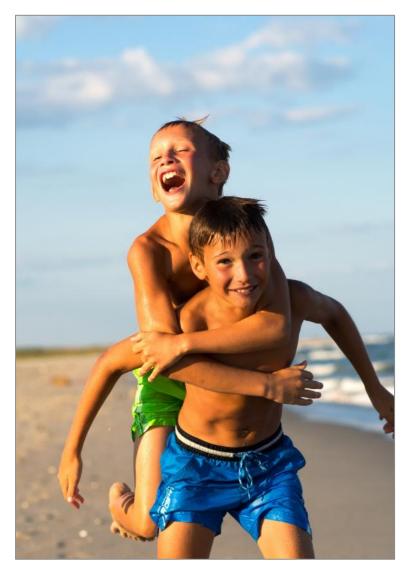
Current age, income, assets or receipt of government benefits are <u>not</u> considered.

#### **Requirements:**

- Florida resident
- Onset of the disability prior to age 26
- The disability is "severe"







# Disability

No approval process or document submission.

An individual receiving SSDI or SSI or who has a condition on the List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions qualifies automatically.

- Self-certification
- "Marked and severe functional limitations"
- Expect to last for at least 12 months



### **Ownership**

#### The individual with a disability is the owner of the ABLE account.

Another person may assist in opening or maintaining the ABLE account.

- One ABLE account nationwide
- Accessed through secure website
- For the benefit of the individual with a disability





# How it Works

### Enroll

#### Open an ABLE account at <u>ableunited.com</u> in approximately 15 minutes.

No documents to upload. Enter identifying information, categorize and self-certify basis of eligibility, and select investment options.

#### **Special Situations:**

- Another person is authorized to open the account
- Provide date of diagnosis with name and address of physician







### Contribute

#### Anyone can contribute to the account.

Contributions are considered completed gifts (not income) to the individual with a disability.

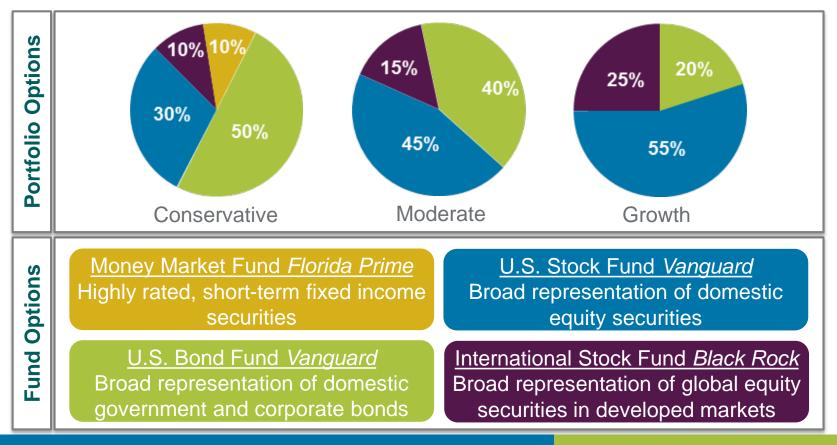
- Total of \$14,000 per year
- No federal income tax-deduction
- Rollovers from IRA or 529 College Savings

Plan not allowed



### Grow

Seven investment options designed to meet the needs of most investors - three predesigned portfolios and four individual funds to build a custom portfolio.





### Withdraw

#### Money may be withdrawn at any time and for any reason.

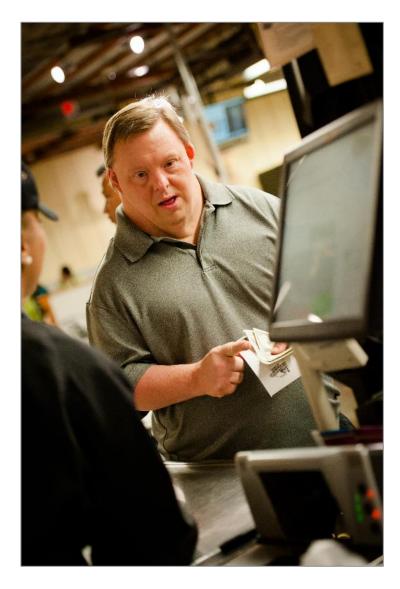
Withdrawals may be made by electronic transfer or by check. Earnings are tax-free if annual withdrawals are less than, or equal to, qualified disability expenses.

#### **Consideration:**

- Keep documentation for the IRS
- Earnings may be subject to tax plus
  10% if withdrawals exceed qualified
  disability expenses







### How much does it cost?

#### No cost to open an account

Save on fees – ABLE United offers the best value for Florida residents.

- No application fee
- No minimum contribution (ACH min. \$25)
- Monthly account maintenance fee of \$2.50/mo. waived until July 2018
- Investment administration fee from 0.035% to 0.290% (fee taken out of performance)
- Paper delivery fee \$10, prorated



Federal Benefits



# What about Medicaid?

#### Save without losing Medicaid.

Funds in an ABLE account do <u>not</u> count as an asset for Medicaid.

If Beneficiary received Medicaid and passes away, Medicaid may make a claim on the account

- Only for services rendered after account opened
- Outstanding qualified disability expenses paid first
- Funeral and Burial
- Reduce claim amount by Medicaid Buy-In premiums



## What if I am receiving SSI?

#### Save for the future without losing Supplemental Security Income.

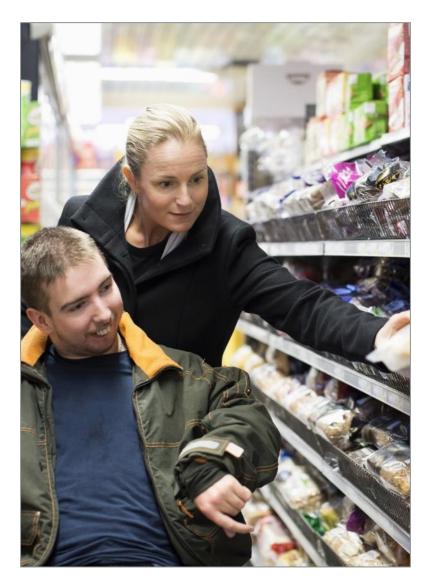
Generally, funds in (or withdrawn from) an ABLE account are disregarded when determining eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- First \$100,000 in ABLE account <u>does not</u> count as a resource
- Housing and non-qualified expenses withdrawn <u>but not spent</u> in the same month count as a resource





# Questions



### Questions

Visit <u>ableunited.com</u> for more information about ABLE United.

Learn more about ABLE United accounts, listen to other account holders, and review our Program Description and Participation Agreement.

#### **Customer Service:**

Emailcustomerservice@ableunited.comToll Free1-888-524-ABLE (2253)

