

A savings plan grounded in empowerment

For too long, people with disabilities couldn't save for the future out of fear of losing government benefits. Established by a group of self-advocates, nonprofit organizations and government agencies, the Washington State ABLE Savings Plan is a way to save for qualified expenses, invest for the future and keep the benefits you rely on every day.

Our goal is to provide the tools you need to achieve financial empowerment and help prepare for a more independent and secure future through a simple, intuitive financial platform.

What is the ABLE Act?

After the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was passed by Congress in December of 2014, people with eligible disabilities could finally save for their everyday needs, withdraw funds tax-free for eligible uses and prepare for the future without losing their state or federal benefits.

What is the Washington State ABLE Savings Plan?

The state of Washington established a unique program to give eligible residents and their families the resources, support and services to reach their financial goals. Our mission is to help people with disabilities be empowered to make decisions with their money that impacts their health, independence and quality of life so that they can be ready for whatever tomorrow may bring.

Who is eligible to open an account?

Whether the account is for you (the beneficiary) or you're a parent or legal guardian of, or have a power of attorney for, someone who is eligible, make sure the following statements are true:

- ✓ The disability or blindness developed before the age of 26;
- ✓ The beneficiary lives in the state of Washington;
- ✓ One of the following is true about the beneficiary:
 - Are eligible for SSI or SSDI because of a disability;
 - Have a condition listed in the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowance Conditions;
 - Experience blindness as determined by the Social Security Act; or
 - Have a written diagnosis of a disability. The written diagnosis must come from a licensed physician, documenting a physical or mental impairment that can be medically determined. To qualify, the impairment must result in marked and severe functional limitation, can be expected to last at least a year, or can cause death.

What are the benefits?

You can save and invest up to \$18,000 a year for a wide range of eligible expenses. The best part? Your state and federal benefits are here to stay. When you open an account, you won't lose them.

An ABLE account is meant to help supplement your current benefits with a way to save for eligible expenses. If you're receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income), you can have up to \$100,000 in your account without it counting towards the \$2,000 asset limit. If you choose to go over the \$100,000 limit, your SSI benefits will be suspended, but you'll still be eligible for all other benefits (such as Medicaid). Once your balance drops below the limit, your SSI benefits will resume as normal.

Get more of the things you need

The money in your account can be used for many everyday expenses, even housing and rent. This brochure includes a list of examples of qualified expenses.

Receive tax benefits

Earnings on your investments grow tax deferred and withdrawals for qualified expenses are tax free.

Keep your account in your pocket with the Washington State ABLE Prepaid Card

You can load a prepaid card with money from your account and use it for eligible expenses whenever and wherever you want.

How does it work?

Your account can be managed online, so it's easy to access, contribute, or withdraw money; even friends and family can add to the account. It's never been easier to save and invest for your future.

What qualifies as an eligible expense?

You can use money from your account to cover things like basic everyday needs or an unexpected turn of events. These eligible expenses are geared towards improving health, independence and quality of life. Including:

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

Setting up your account

You can set up a Washington State ABLE Savings Plan account in as little as 10 minutes. After you decide who the account is for, we'll ask for some information about you, your beneficiary (if you're the Authorized Legal Representative), the qualifying disability and how you'll be funding the ABLE account. To complete the setup, you'll customize the account and make decisions about the money you add. You can save money in at least one of four different investment options and/or invest at least 10% of your funds. The choice is up to you. There's a \$25 minimum deposit to start off your account.

The cash option

A cash option gives people who consider themselves "savers" rather than "investors" a conservative alternative for saving. It could be a good option for individuals who plan on spending money from their account in the near future. This option protects your balance by putting all of the assets into an FDIC-insured account. With a low level of risk there's also a lower level of returns.

Conservative, moderate, and aggressive options

Three of the plan's options invest in a mix of stocks and bonds: ABLE Conservative, ABLE Moderate or ABLE Aggressive. Each option has its own benefits and limitations. It's up to you to decide which one is right for you. Check out our website for more info: WashingtonStateABLE.com

For more information about the Washington State ABLE Savings Plan (Washington ABLE), call 1.844.600.2253 or visit www.washingtonstateable.com to obtain the Plan Disclosure and Participation Agreement, which includes investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information; read and consider it carefully before investing.

Washington ABLE is administered by the Governing Board of the Washington Achieving a Better Life Experience Program (Board). Vestwell State Savings, the Program Manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including record keeping and administrative services. Washington ABLE's Portfolios invest in: (i) mutual funds offered by Vanguard and DFA; or (ii) an FDIC-insured omnibus savings account held in trust by the Board at Bank of New York Mellon.

Neither the Board, Vestwell State Savings, nor the investment managers guarantee your contributions to Washington ABLE or any investment returns on those contributions. Investment returns will vary depending upon the performance of the Portfolios you choose. Except to the extent of FDIC insurance available for the Cash Option, depending on market conditions, you could lose all or a portion of your money by investing in Washington ABLE. Account Owners assume all investment risks as well as responsibility for any federal and state tax consequences.

Are you ready?

Take one step closer to saving and investing for your goals. Get started at WashingtonStateABLE.com or give us a call at our number below.

Still have questions?

Stop wondering and find the answers you're looking for. Give us a call at **1 (844) 600-ABLE (TTY: 711) 9-5 PT, Monday-Friday.**



Protect your
benefits and secure
your future.



Washington State
ABLE SAVINGS PLAN
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