

## **Saving for a Better Life Experience with ABLE United**

After years of advocating, negotiating and compromising, one of the most important pieces of legislation for the disability community was passed. The Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act allows for the creation of savings and investment accounts for people with disabilities without negatively impacting federal benefits. Florida is among the first states to implement the law, which created the ABLE United program.

Now that this legislation is enacted, individuals can save up to \$14,000 annually, tax-free, for qualified disability expenses. Funds in an ABLE United account can be used for items such as assistive technology, housing, education, employment training and more. With seven investment options, the account holder has a choice in how their money works for them.

Unlike other savings options, the individual with the disability is the sole owner of the ABLE account and may manage it independently. However, authorized persons may establish it and help with oversight. ABLE account holders can accumulate funds autonomously or with the help of contributors.

Contributions may come from friends, family or anyone with a relationship to the beneficiary and these contributions do not count as income to the individual.

To be considered eligible, an individual must meet the disability and severity requirements for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), but it is not necessary to receive either to be eligible for an ABLE United account. The onset of blindness or disability must have occurred before the individual's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. Current age is not considered when opening an ABLE account – except that the account must be opened by an adult 18 years of age or older.

ABLE United advantages:

- Save tax-free for future expenses
- Save while maintaining federal benefits
- Save on fees - ABLE United offers the best value for Florida residents

With ABLE United, Floridians with disabilities can plan for the life they've always imagined and work toward a secure future. There is now an advantageous way to save, protect and grow money, ensuring economic goals are met with confidence. For more information on ABLE United, go to [\*\*ableunited.com\*\*](http://ableunited.com).

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