



CalABLE and Social Security



Webinar Setup



Spanish Interpreter

Click Interpretation in webinar controls and click Spanish



ASL Interpreters

View the speaker gallery to find a video feed of our ASL interpreters



Captioning

Turn on Closed Captioning in the webinar controls

Presentation Slides

Please visit the CalABLE website for a copy of today's slides.

<https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/able/events/webinars/2025/index.asp>



Submitting Questions

Q&A Box

Submit your questions
using the Q&A box at
any time

Email Us

Audio-only participants may
email us at
CalABLE@treasurer.ca.gov

Survey

Submit your feedback
and unanswered
questions

Q&A Portion

Our team members will be answering questions in the Q&A during the webinar. We will also select a few questions to answer live at the end of the webinar.

We will answer as many questions as possible.

Please note, we cannot answer questions about specific personal situations, but we can direct you to resources.





Welcome

Fiona Ma
California State Treasurer



CalABLE and Social Security



Poll: I am a...

- ☒ Account owner
- ☒ Authorized legal representative / Parent

- ☒ State Employee
- ☒ Service Provider

- ☒ Potential CalABLE participant
- ☒ Other



Poll:

Have you attended a CalABLE Webinar before?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Poll:

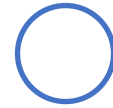
Do you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?



Yes



I'm thinking
of applying



No



Poll:

Do you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)?



Yes



I'm thinking
of applying



No



Social Security Michael Contact



CalABLE and Social Security





CalABLE is a savings and investment program for people with disabilities.

CalABLE helps people save for the future while protecting their benefits.

Who is eligible for CalABLE?

You can open an account at any age, but you must have a disability that began before age 26*

- You are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Or

- You can self certify if your disability is on the SSA List of Compassionate Allowances or Blue Book (Listing of Impairments)
 - More information can be found on our website at <https://calable.ca.gov/eligibility>



Brenda and Gael



CalABLE protects benefits

CalABLE can help you save while protecting eligibility for benefits that look at how much money you have, like:

- SSI
- CalFresh
- Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)

Also, friends and family can contribute directly to an account without it counting as income for benefits like SSI, SSDI, and Medi-Cal

**CalABLE helps maximize
independence – for life**



If you're on SSI, you normally
cannot save more than

\$2,000



Now with CalABLE,
you can save up to

\$100,000

SSI versus SSDI

SSI

- Looks at income
- Looks at assets
- Can save up to \$100,000 in CalABLE

SSDI

- Looks at income
- Does not look at assets
- Can save up to \$529,000 in CalABLE

Income = how much money you make
Assets = how much money you have

Additional SSI Guidance

SSA Program Operations Manual System (POMS)
for ABLE Accounts:

<https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0501130740>

- Contributions from third parties are not considered income*
- Distributions are not considered income
- Distributions for qualified disability expenses are excluded from countable resources
 - Housing expenses must be withdrawn and spent in the same calendar month



Additional Agency Guidance

Medi-Cal: An asset limit of \$130,000 will begin on January 1, 2026

- If you receive Medi-Cal, you can save up to \$100,000 in a CalABLE account without it counting toward the upcoming Medi-Cal asset limit.

HUD / Section 8: CalABLE account excluded when determining eligibility

- <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH-2019-09.pdf>

CalFresh: CalABLE account excluded when determining eligibility

- <https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/able/resources/acl.pdf>

Please note:

CalABLE staff are not experts on benefits. If you have specific questions on benefits eligibility or reporting your CalABLE account, please reach out to your benefits providers directly.

If you are eligible for these means-tested benefits through SSI, you will want to keep the \$100,000 limit in mind.

How much you can contribute to your CalABLE account?

In 2025, you can contribute up to:

\$19,000

(contributions only)

Do you receive SSI?

Your account balance must remain below:

\$100,000

(contributions + earnings)

Not receiving benefits?

You can continue to contribute until your account reaches:

\$529,000

(contributions + earnings)

Who can contribute to a CalABLE account?

Beneficiary

- Earnings/Benefits (counted as income)
- Asset protected

3rd Party

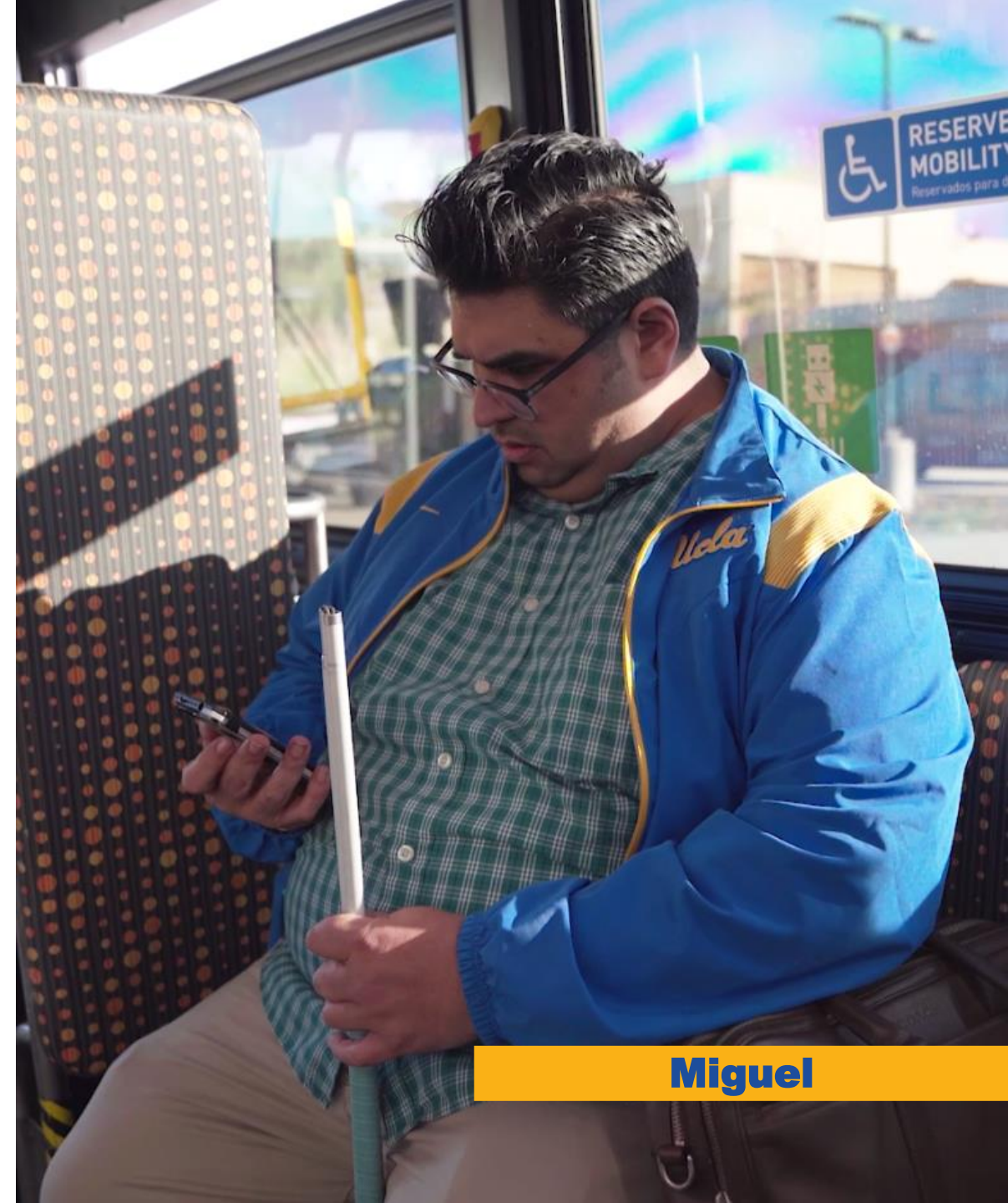
- Family, friends, entities, etc.
- Not counted as income or in-kind contribution
- Won't affect benefits award

**Annual Contribution Limit:
\$19,000**

Social Security Direct Deposits

Skip extra steps and make saving easier by setting up fast, secure direct deposits from the Social Security Administration to your account.

- Set up direct deposit instructions: [CaABLE FAQ](#)
- Call the CaABLE Customer Service Center for help finding your unique routing and account numbers: 833-225-2253



Miguel

Invest for the future

- The sooner you start saving, the sooner you can start planning a **nest egg**
- CalABLE offers professionally managed investment portfolios
- Opportunity to build wealth through compound earnings
- Fees are competitive – \$30 per year, plus a small percentage of invested assets

You don't pay state or federal taxes on any earnings in the account!*



Cheryl, Sol, and Micah

Poll:

What are you saving for?

☒ First home

☒ Education

☒ Service dog

☒ Recreation and vacation

☒ Accessible vehicle

☒ Technology or equipment

☒ Health and wellness



What can the money be spent on?

Any expense that helps the account holder maintain or improve their health, independence, or quality of life – at any age.

Education

Housing*

Transportation and travel

Employment training
and support

Basic needs including food

Recreation and
entertainment

Health, prevention,
and support services

Assistive technology and
related services

Legal fees

Financial management and
administrative services

Funeral and burial
expenses

And more



POMS Housing Expense Examples

Mortgage (including property insurance required by the mortgage holder)

Real property taxes

Rent

Heating fuel

Gas

Electricity

Water

Sewer

Garbage removal

For SSI purposes, housing expenses must be withdrawn and spent in the same calendar month

Housing expenses for purposes of a CalABLE account are similar to household costs for in-kind support and maintenance purposes.

However, for CalABLE purposes, food is considered a qualified disability expense (basic living expense), but not a housing expense.

Example:

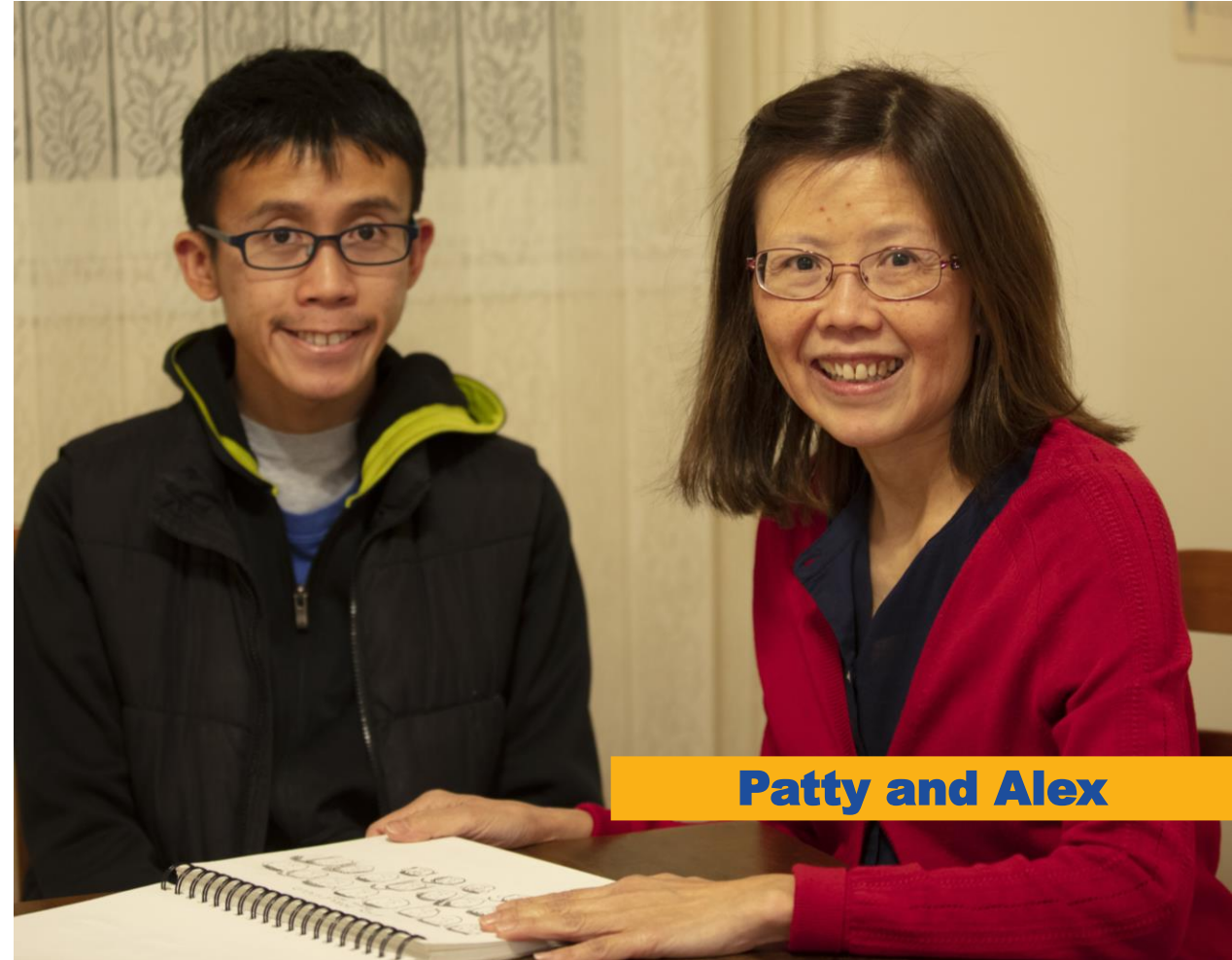
Housing Expense

Amy takes a distribution of \$500 from their ABLE account in **May** to pay a housing expense for **June**. They deposit the \$500 into their checking account in May, withdraws \$500 in cash on June 3, and pay their landlord.

This distribution is a **housing expense** and part of their checking account balance as of June 1, which makes it a **countable resource** for the month of June.

Best Practices for Record Keeping

- Keep receipts in a secure and safe area
- Record notes (records of the purchased item and the amount of the CalABLE withdrawal)
- The IRS recommends keeping records for 3 years from the date you filed your original return or 2 years from the date you paid the tax.
- Organize receipts by date to easily find them
- Scan receipts and notes, store them on a computer
- You can upload receipt photos to your prepaid card portal



Access your money easily with a prepaid card

- Load funds onto your prepaid card anytime from your CalABLE account
- Pay for qualified disability expenses anywhere Visa® cards are accepted
- Customize and track your spending
- Get two separate cards - one for the beneficiary and one for the authorized legal representative
- No monthly fees

In addition to the prepaid card, you can transfer money to another account or have a check mailed to you.



Curtis

Death of Beneficiary

Funds from a CalABLE account can be used by his or her estate to repay any outstanding eligible expenses, funeral, and burial costs.

When CalABLE is notified of a Beneficiary's death, CalABLE will request satisfactory proof of death and documentation from the executor or administrator of the Beneficiary's estate. Upon receipt of such proof of death, CalABLE will suspend all Account activity, except that the executor or administrator of the Beneficiary's estate will be permitted to take withdrawals from the Account.

Death of Beneficiary Form:

<https://calable.ca.gov/assets/docs/death-of-beneficiary-form.pdf>

An executor or administrator of a Beneficiary's estate should consult with qualified tax and legal advisors regarding the tax treatment of such withdrawals and the potential for Medicaid/Medi-Cal recapture by Medicaid/Medi-Cal or other states.

Successor Designated Beneficiary

- A Successor Designated Beneficiary for a CalABLE account must be a sibling, step-sibling, or halfsibling of the designated beneficiary, and must also have a qualifying disability.
- A successor must be added to the account before the death of the beneficiary.
- You can add a successor in the CalABLE portal or using a paper form: <https://calable.ca.gov/assets/docs/add-edit-remove-successor-designated-beneficiary-form.pdf>



* Currently, CalABLE does not have the ability to list a successor Authorized Legal Representative. In the case of the ALR's death, please use the Change of Authorized Legal Representative Form: <https://calable.ca.gov/assets/docs/change-of-alr-form.pdf>

Medi-Cal Recovery

CalABLE accounts for CA residents are protected against Medi-Cal recovery (SB 218, AB 2216).

However, the state may recover on assets that have transferred from a CalABLE account to an estate, if ALL of the following apply:

The deceased Medi-Cal member was aged 55 or older.

The member leaves an estate that is subject to formal probate. Under current law, only estates that exceed \$184,500 in value are subject to formal probate.

The member received nursing facility services or home and community-based services, including related hospital and prescription drug services.

The member is not survived by a spouse or registered domestic partner, child under 21 years of age, or disabled child of any age.



* As of 1/1/2023, ABLE accounts for CA residents not established in CA are subject to Medi-Cal recover claim

How do I open a CalABLE Account?



Get started today: CalABLE.ca.gov



Español  Search  Menu 

[How it works](#) | [Eligibility](#) | [Investment options](#) | [Join our mailing list](#) 

CalABLE equips you to save for the future without affecting eligibility for public benefits

Since inception, CalABLE is changing the way people with disabilities can plan and save for their financial futures.

[Open an account](#)



See how it works

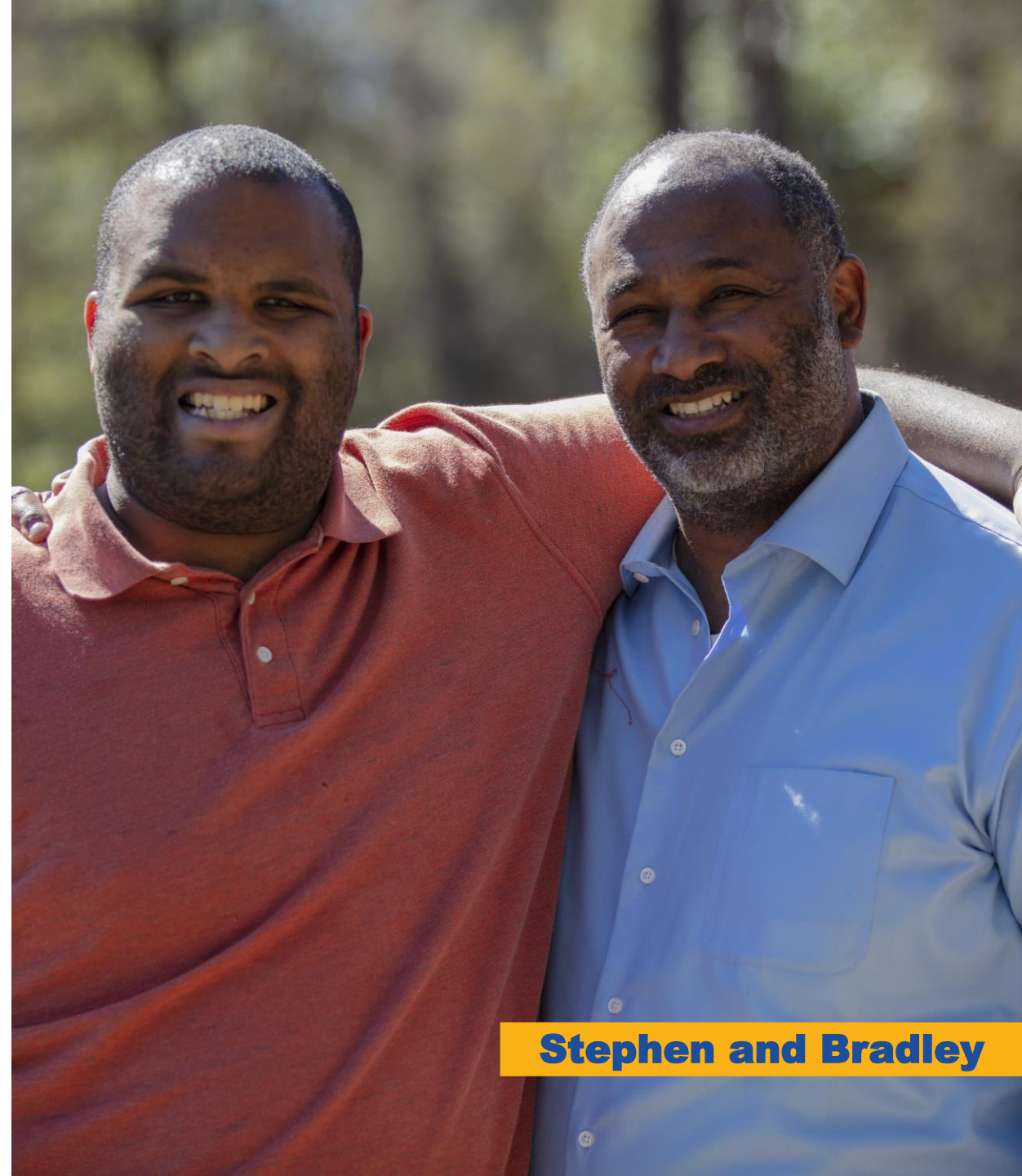
Members of the disability community shouldn't have to struggle to build financial security because of the risk of losing public benefits and the high cost of expenses. With CalABLE, you can save for needs and dreams, and



It takes 15 minutes to get started!

What do I need to know before I open an account?

- The person with a disability is always the ABLE account owner and beneficiary of the funds
- The account can be opened by the person with a disability or an Authorized Legal Representative
 - <https://calable.ca.gov/alr-info>
- Accounts can be opened in 9 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, and Korean



Stephen and Bradley

**Open an account now and get ready
for a lifetime of opportunity**

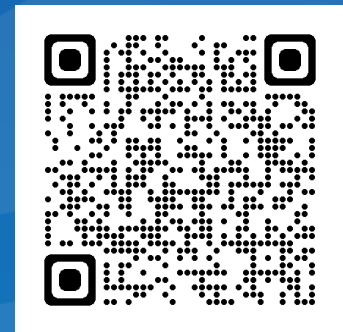


Reminders

Contact Us

CalABLE Service Center

- Phone: 833-Cal-ABLE (833-225-2253) between 6am and 5pm PT
 - Our customer service center supports more than 240 languages
 - For those with a hearing impairment, please contact us at the number above via a relay service
- You can sign up to receive our emails, newsletters and information by scanning the QR code.



Social Security Links

SSA encourages all members to create a [my Social Security](#) account to gain access to their personal information.

Here are links from the SSA website www.ssa.gov where the information can be found in e-format:

- [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#)
 - [SSI Eligibility](#)
 - [Apply for SSI](#)
- [Social Security Disability Insurance \(SSDI\)](#)
- [File an appeal](#)

Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.



Join the **CalABLE** Ambassador Team!

What is a CalABLE Ambassador?

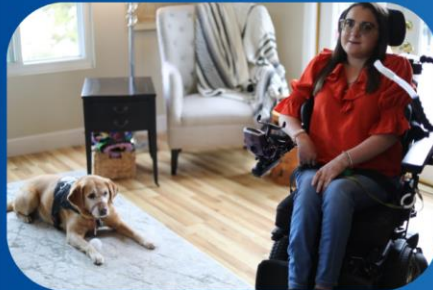
CalABLE Ambassadors represent the heart and diversity of California's disability community. They help raise awareness, share their stories, and connect others to the benefits of CalABLE.

You can be a CalABLE Ambassador if you are:

- A CalABLE account holder, or

An Authorized Legal Representative, such as a:

- Legal guardian or conservator
- Parent, spouse, sibling, or grandparent
- Power of attorney
- Representative payee (SSA-appointed)



Why Be an Ambassador?

- Be featured in CalABLE videos & materials
- Get VIP access to CalABLE events
- Share your story & shape the future of CalABLE

Apply Today!

Scan the QR code to complete the quick application.





Getting Answers to Your CalABLE Questions

Learn about CalABLE's new Chat feature and more!

August 13, 2025

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. PT

This program is free
and open to the
general public.

Dial in by calling
1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID:
899 9283 1293



CalABLE Monthly Webinar Series

Register now:



https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pUrqNj6ZQbWKuXYBfCvDVg

CalABLE is governed by the California ABLE Act Board, an instrumentality of the State of California. Vestwell State Savings, LLC ("Vestwell") is the program administrator. More information about the program can be found at calable.ca.gov.

CalABLE is a savings and investment program offered by the state of California to people with disabilities that began before reaching age 26.

In this webinar, we will explore:

- CalABLE basics
- Using CalABLE's new Chat feature
- How to navigate CalABLE's Disclosure Statement
- Frequently Asked Questions





Fill out the anonymous webinar survey!

1. I am a... CalABLE participant, ALR, potential CalABLE participant, service provider, State employee, other.
2. Do you have any questions we didn't answer?
3. Email or phone number (optional if you would like follow-up)
4. What did you like most about this event?
5. What could we have done better?
6. After this presentation, do you have enough information to open a CalABLE account?
7. Things I wish I knew when I started CalABLE



Disclosure Part 1

This website, presentation, and any blogs or other promotional materials do not constitute an offer to sell, a solicitation of an offer to buy, or a recommendation of any security or any other product or service by Vestwell State Savings, LLC or any of its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates (collectively, "Vestwell") or another third party. Vestwell does not make any representations regarding the appropriateness or suitability of any securities, products, investments, or services and Vestwell does not provide legal, tax, financial, or investment advice to any individual. Vestwell State Savings, LLC is a service provider to certain state-sponsored retirement, college savings, and ABLE programs ("Program"). Any information on or in our website, presentations, blogs, or marketing materials relating to any Program is provided for general education purposes only and should not be used or interpreted by anyone for any other purpose. Any link from this website to a third party website, including any link to a website of any Program website is not an endorsement or recommendation of such Program or regarding any investment options available in such Program, nor is it a statement or opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of any information. All investments involve risk, including the total or partial loss of principal, market fluctuations, liquidity and interest rate risks, domestic and international risks, and inflation-related risks, among many others. Investors are solely responsible for determining whether any investment, investment strategy, security, or transaction affecting their account in any such Program is appropriate for them. Investors should consider consulting their own business advisor, attorney, or tax and accounting advisor regarding their specific business, legal or tax situation, and should review the offering document or other disclosure provided by the Program or issuer of any security before deciding whether to make an investment.

Disclosure Part 2

CalABLE's investment options are selected by the California ABLE Act Board. Account balances in CalABLE will vary with market conditions and are not guaranteed or insured by the California ABLE Act Board, the State of California, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), Vestwell, or any other organization.

Neither Vestwell nor the California ABLE Act Board are investment or tax advisors and do not provide tax, legal, financial, or other investment advice. You should consult appropriate professional advice or consultation if you have questions related to taxes or investments. Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the CalABLE. Please call toll-free 833-CAL-ABLE for a Disclosure Statement containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Before investing in any savings program, you should consider whether your home state provides its taxpayers with favorable state tax or other benefits that are only available through investment in the home state's savings program.

You also should consult your financial, tax, or other adviser to learn more about how state-based benefits (or any limitations) would apply to your specific circumstances. You also may wish to directly contact your home state's savings program, or any other state savings program, to learn more about those plans' features, benefits and limitations. State-based benefits should be one of many appropriately weighted factors to be considered when making an investment decision.

The FDIC-Insured Portfolio is FDIC-insured up to \$250,000, subject to certain restrictions. Interests in the CalABLE program are not registered with or in any way approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities commission.

A large, stylized graphic of two hands, one above the other, cupping a heart shape. The hands and heart are rendered in a lighter shade of blue against the darker blue background. The hands are simplified, with fingers pointing outwards and thumbs pointing inwards towards the heart.

Thank you!

Save more with ABLE to Work

You may be able to save an additional \$15,060 in 2025!

- The ABLE to Work program permits working account owners to contribute above the \$19,000 annual contribution limit, if they or their employer are not contributing to a retirement plan **that calendar year**.
- The additional \$15,060 must come from your income.*

**Save a potential total of
\$34,060**

