



# **ABLE to Work with CalABLE**



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## 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>



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## 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](mailto:CalABLE@treasurer.ca.gov)

### Survey

Submit your feedback and unanswered questions

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*



# **ABLE to Work with CalABLE**



# Poll: I am a...

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- ☒ Account owner
- ☒ Authorized legal representative / Parent

- ☒ State Employee
- ☒ Service Provider

- ☒ Potential CalABLE participant
- ☒ Other



# Poll:

## Are you currently working?

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Yes



No



I'm job searching



# Poll:

## Have you attended a CalABLE Webinar before?

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☐ Yes

☐ No



# **CalABLE Basics**



**CalABLE is a savings and investment account for people with disabilities.**

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

# Who is eligible for CalABLE?

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**You must have an eligible disability:**

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

**Or**

- You can self certify as having a disability
  - More information can be found on our website at <https://calable.ca.gov/eligibility>

**Right now, you can open an account at any age as long as your disability began before age 26, but that is changing next year...**



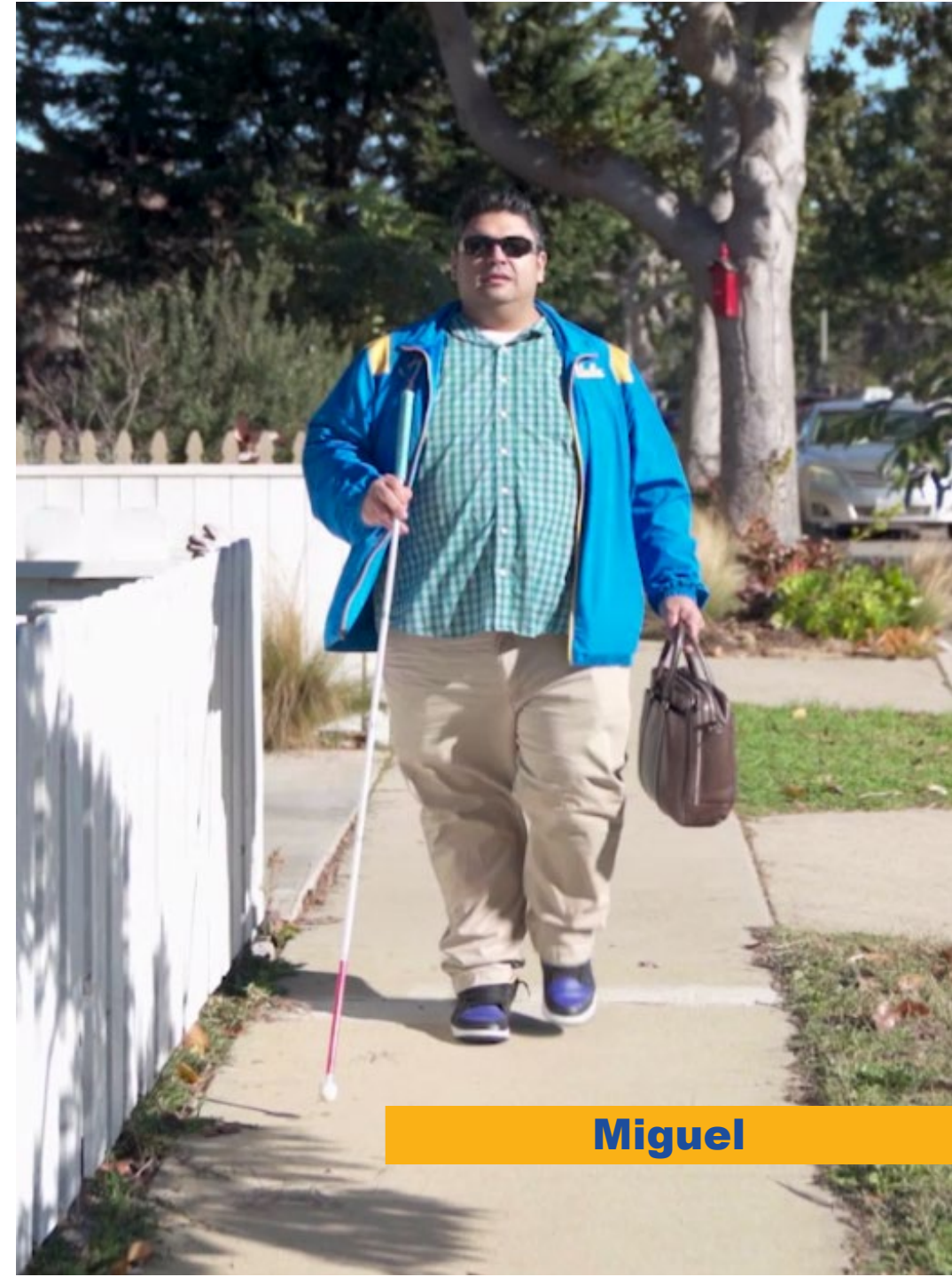
**Tianni**

# ABLE Age Adjustment

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**Beginning January 1, 2026, the age limit for onset of disability will increase from age 26 to 46**

- Same eligibility process will apply
  - You do not have to be receiving nor previously received benefits to be eligible
  - Employment status and income has no effect on eligibility
- This update does not impact current account holders
- Reminder – it doesn't matter how old you are today, it only matters when the disability began



**Miguel**

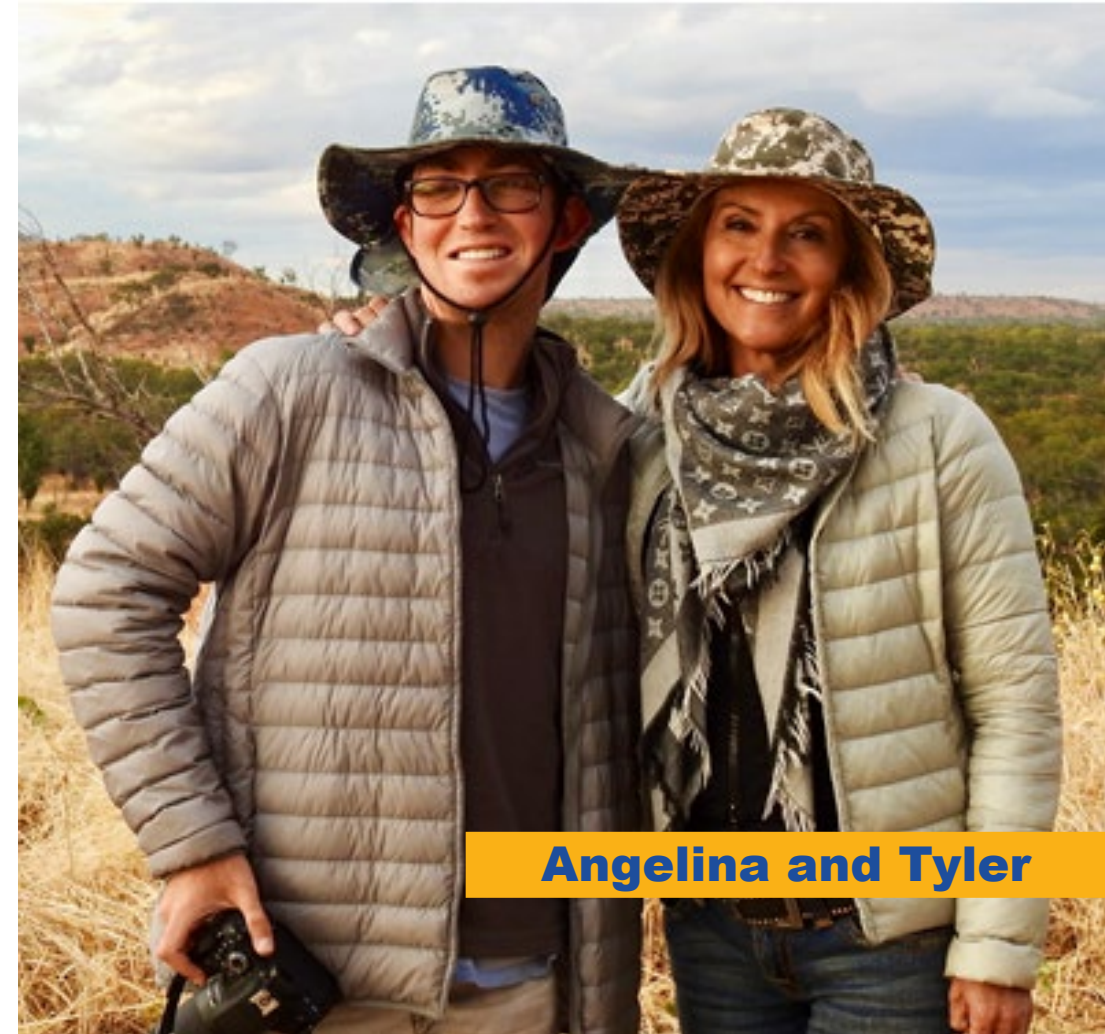


## Why have a CalABLE account?

Because living with a disability can be expensive

Because you can save money and protect eligibility for benefits

Because you want to support a lifetime of opportunity and independence



**Angelina and Tyler**



## **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)
- Medi-Cal (starting January 2026)

In most cases, CalABLE is also exempt from Medi-Cal estate recovery.



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

**\$2,000**



Now with CalABLE,  
you can save up to

**\$100,000**

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# Understanding Income and Assets

Many benefits programs look at your income and your assets for eligibility

**Income =  
How much money  
you make**

- Paychecks from a job
- Gifts from friends and family  
(for some benefits programs)

**Assets =  
How much money  
you have**

- Cash
- Money you have in a bank  
account

CalABLE protects any assets saved in the account, and prevents deposited gifts from counting as income

# Raymond

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“Without CalABLE, I feel like I would be constantly looking over my shoulder, checking my bank balance, making sure it was under \$2,000. With CalABLE, I’ve been able to achieve financial peace-of-mind.”



# How do I use a CalABLE Account?

# How much you can contribute to your CalABLE account?

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**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 SSI?**

You can continue to contribute until your account reaches:

**\$529,000**

*(contributions + earnings)*

*CalABLE will automatically reject excess contributions*



# 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 in 2025**



**Ryan**

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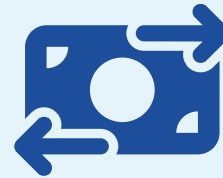
## How do I contribute to my account?



**One time or recurring  
electronic contributions**



**Set up direct deposit  
of SSA/SSI benefits**



**Set up direct deposit  
at work**



**By check**

## Make a contribution

Contributions can take 2–4 business days to complete.

[Compare all investment options](#) 

Step 1 of 3

Where do you want to contribute from? \*

Select ▾

Contribution type \*

☐ One-time contribution

☐ Recurring monthly contribution  
Select the day on which you would like this contribution to happen. Note: the contribution will be processed up to two (2) business days prior to your selected contribution date.

Next

## Contributions – Step 1

# Contributions – Step 2

## Make a contribution

Contributions can take 2–4 business days to complete.

[Compare all investment options](#) 

### Step 2 of 3

With ABLE to Work, if the beneficiary is earning wages, you may contribute an amount equal to the beneficiary's current year gross income up to \$14,580 in addition to the yearly standard contribution limit.<sup>1</sup>

#### What type of contribution are you making? \*

☐

Standard contribution

You've contributed \$50.00 toward the \$18,000 yearly standard contribution limit.

☐

ABLE to Work contribution

You've contributed \$0.00 toward the \$14,580 ABLE to Work contribution limit.<sup>21</sup>

[Learn more about ABLE to Work](#) 

[Back](#)[Next](#)

Footnote 1: The beneficiary's actual ABLE to Work contribution limit may be less than \$14,580. Beneficiaries who earn less than \$14,580 may only contribute an amount equal to their current year gross income. [Return](#)

Footnote 2: If the beneficiary or their employer is contributing to a defined contribution plan (401K), annuity plan (403(b)), or deferred compensation plan (457(b)) this calendar year, the beneficiary is not eligible to make ABLE to Work contributions. [Return](#)

# Make a contribution

Contributions can take 2–4 business days to complete.

[Compare all investment options](#)

## Step 3 of 3

Enter the amount you want to add. Each contribution must be at least \$1.

| Investment Option                                                                                                                                                                             | Amount                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><div></div><div><div>FDIC-Insured Portfolio</div><div>Total balance \$0.00<sup>3</sup></div></div></div> | <div><div>Amount</div><div><div>\$</div><div></div></div></div> |
| <div>Contribute to a new investment</div>                                                                                                                                                     | <div><div>Total</div><div><div>\$</div><div>0</div></div></div> |

Footnote 1: The beneficiary's actual ABLE to Work contribution limit may be less than \$13,590. Beneficiaries who earn less than \$13,590 may only contribute an amount equal to their current year gross income. [Return](#)

Footnote 2: If the beneficiary or their employer is contributing to a defined contribution plan (401K), annuity plan (403(b)), or deferred compensation plan (457(b)) this calendar year, the beneficiary is not eligible to make ABLE to Work contributions. [Return](#)

Footnote 3: This amount is based on the most recently calculated value of your investment and does not include any pending transfers. [Return](#)

Contributions –  
Step 3

Please review your contribution

Contributions can take 2-4 business days to complete.

Contribution from

 Tim's Checking  
0000

FrequencyOne-time contribution

Contribution type

Standard contribution

Contribution to

 FDIC-Insured Portfolio

\$50.00

Total contribution\$50.00

Review



CaLABLE

Tim Smith ●●●●●●0229

Overview

Activity ▾

Documents ▾

Investments ▾

Transfers ▾

Settings ▾



## Your contribution is in the works

You'll receive an email when your contribution is complete within 2-4 business days. The contribution will appear as Vestwell in your bank account.

See activity

## Contributions – Confirmation



## **Ask family and friends to contribute via gifting!**

- Set up a gifting page, and anyone who has a link can contribute towards your goal!
- Gift contributions count toward your yearly contribution limit. So, if you've already reached the limit, your page will remain public, but no one can contribute again until next year.
- Gift contributions do not count as income.



**Curtis**

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## Who can contribute to a CalABLE account?

### Beneficiary

- Earnings/Benefits (counted as income)
- May contribute above the annual limit if working
- Asset protected

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Party

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

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

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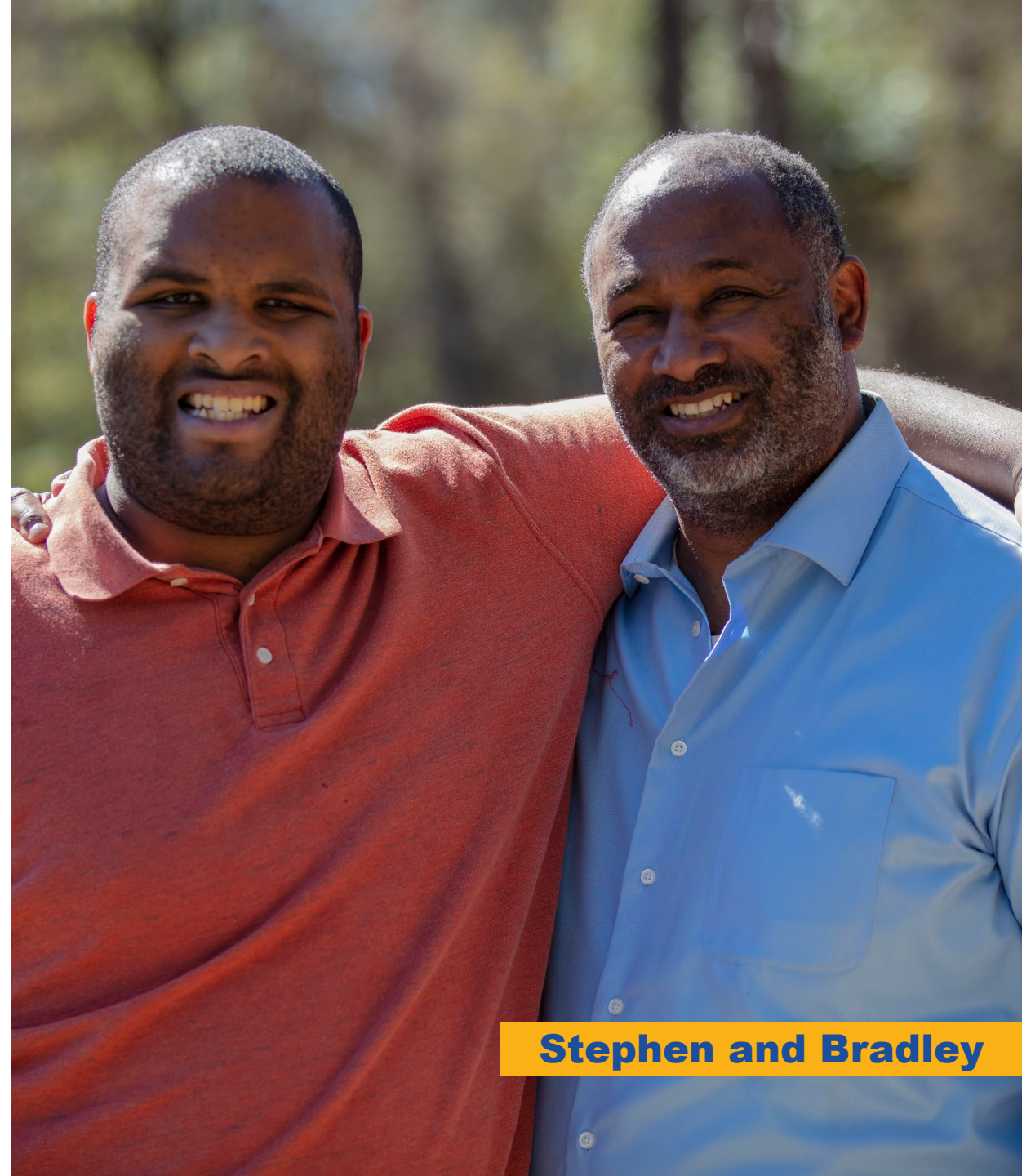
# Invest for the future

- CalABLE offers 8 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!\***

\*The account only must be used for qualified disability expenses

For more information about fees and investment portfolios, see the [CalABLE Program Disclosure Statement](#)

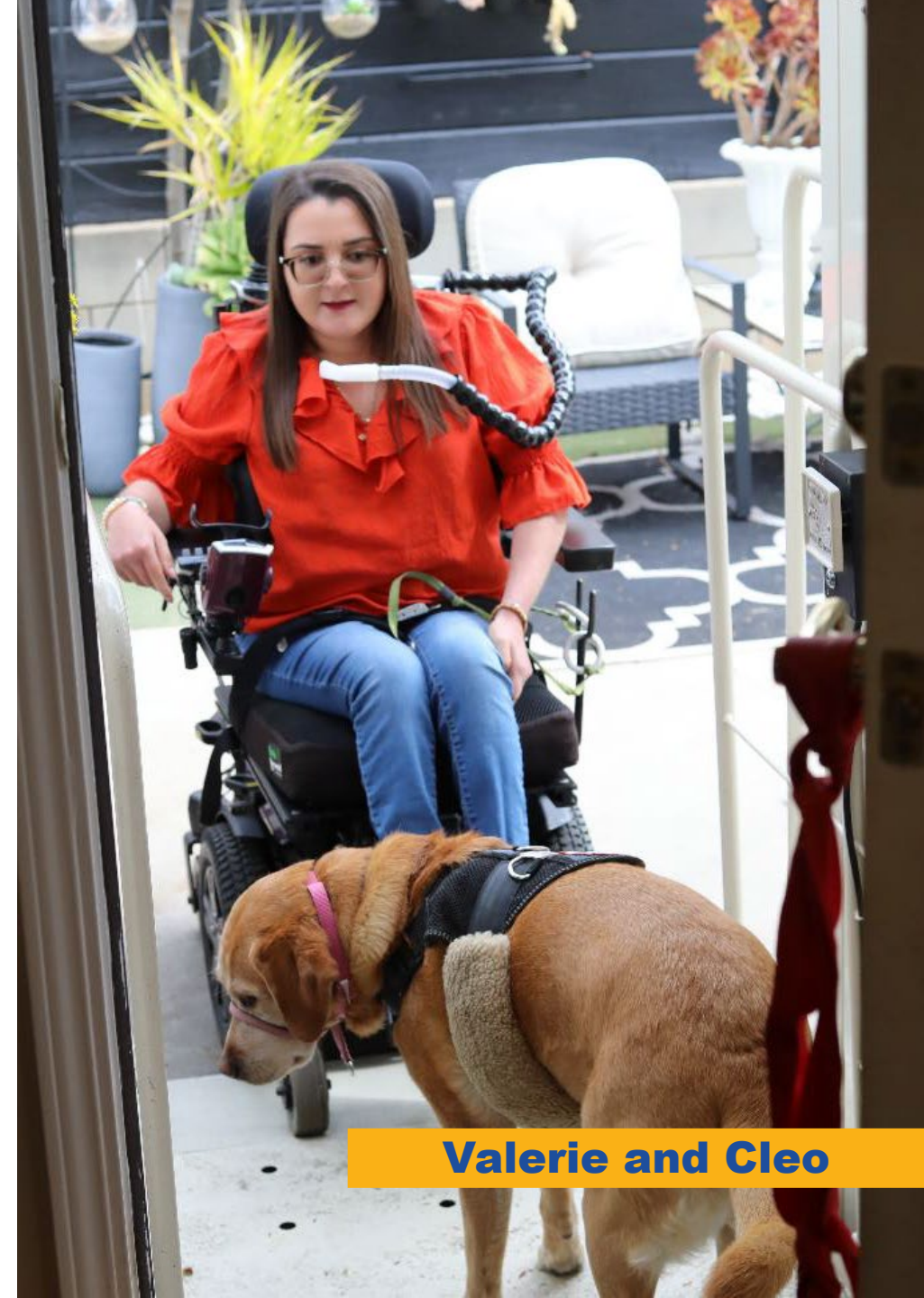


**Stephen and Bradley**

## Tax Time Tips\*

- Having a CalABLE account does not mean you have to file taxes but...
- A person who works or worked during the tax filing year *should* file income taxes regardless of their earned income amount
  - Take advantage of the [Saver's Credit](#)
- CalABLE Tax Forms:
  - 1099-QA: Available if withdrawals were made from the CalABLE account
  - 5498-QA: Available if contributions were made into the CalABLE account

\* Watch CalABLE's [Tax Time Tips webinar](#) for more information



**Valerie and Cleo**

# Poll:

## What are you saving for?

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☒ First home

☒ Education

☒ Service dog

☒ Retirement

☒ Accessible vehicle

☒ Technology or equipment

☒ Health and wellness

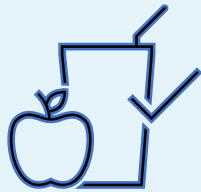
☒ Recreation and vacation



# What Is a Qualified Disability Expense (QDE)?

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Expenses that are for the benefit of the designated beneficiary in maintaining or improving:



**Health**



**Independence**



**Quality of Life**

# Employment related QDEs

Remember the three categories: health, independence, and quality of life.

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Education

Employment training  
and support

Transportation

Assistive technology and  
related services

Personal support services

Benefits planning

Job coach

Financial management and  
administrative services

Legal fees

Small business expenses

Work equipment

And more!

## SSI Guidance:

Distributions are not considered income.

Distributions for qualified disability expenses are excluded from countable resources.

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## 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.



**Otto**

## Adrienne and Allison

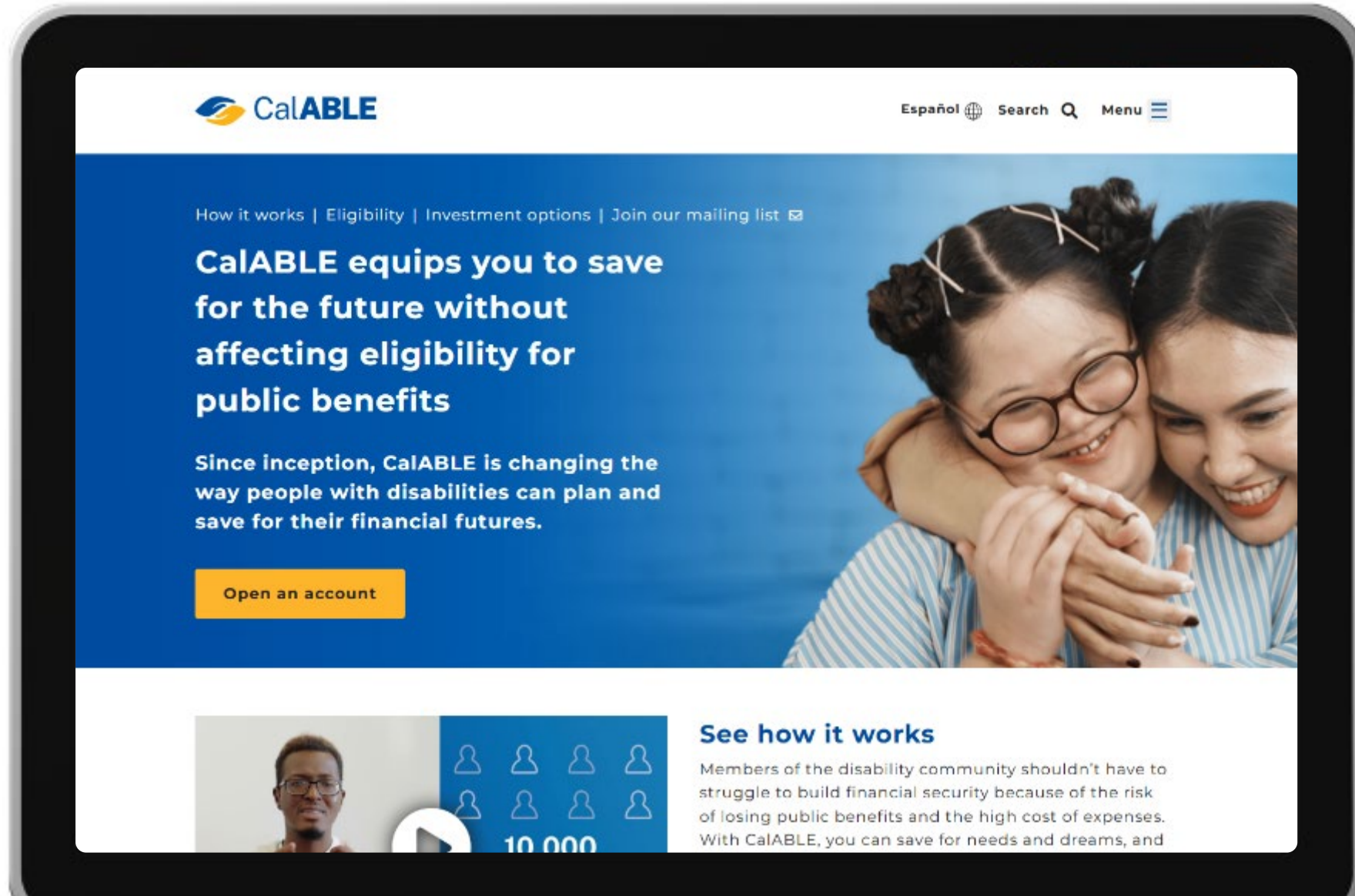
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“The best feature for CalABLE, for us, has been that it had the feature of a debit card which would make it much easier for Allison to use her money.”



# How do I open a CalABLE Account?

# Get started: CalABLE.ca.gov



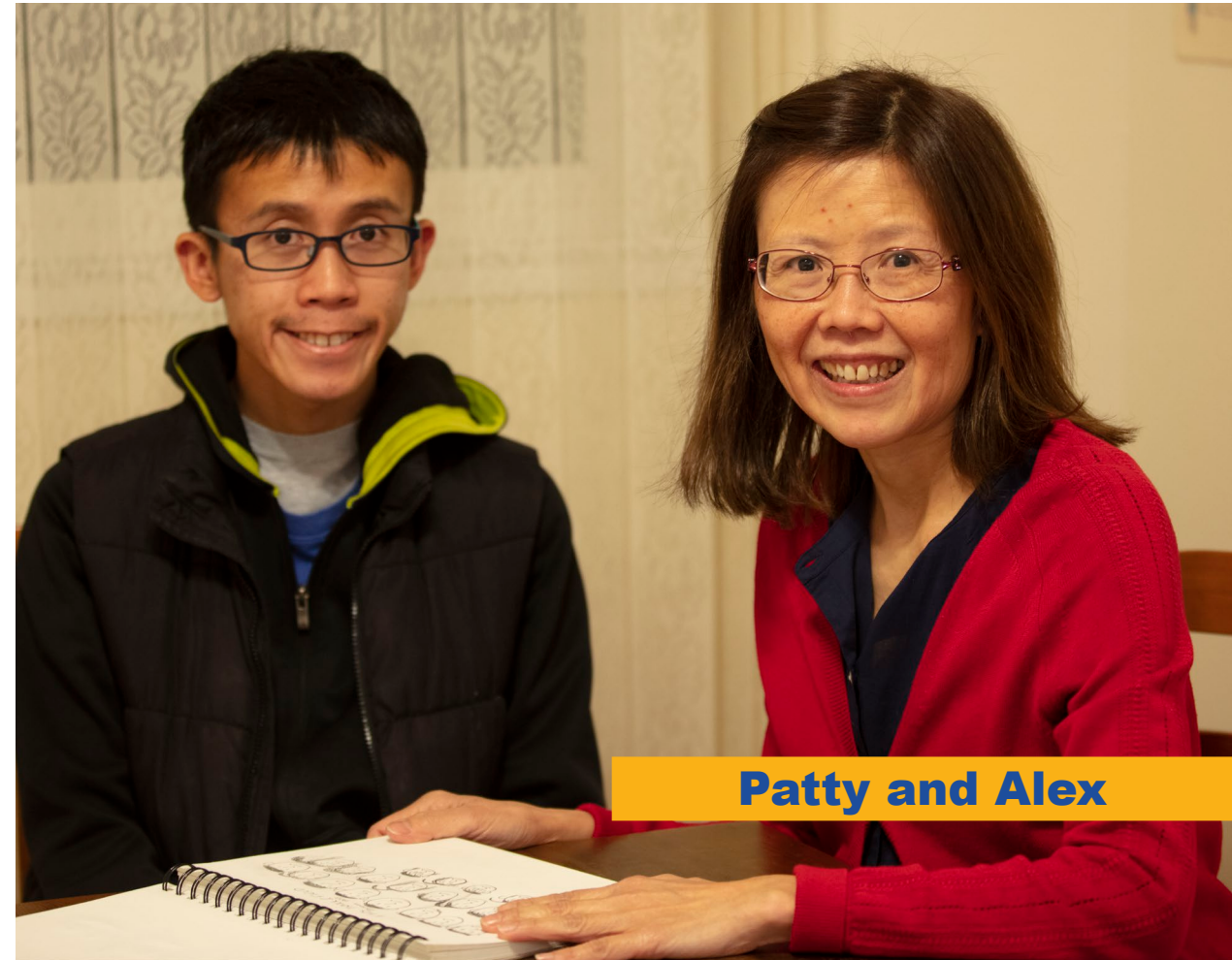


## It takes 15 minutes to get started!

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### 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 20 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, and Korean



**Patty and Alex**

## **So why should workers with disabilities have CalABLE?**

- To save for your future
- To be more independent
- To protect your benefits
- For the tax-free investment options
- To live the life you dream of



**Curtis**

# **CalABLE Ambassador Miguel**

# **Resources and Reminders**

# Employment Resources

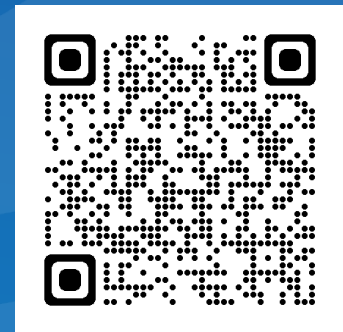
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- Social Security:
  - [Ticket to Work](#) – Free employment services for Social Security disability beneficiaries ages 18 - 64
  - [PASS Program](#) – Exclude income or resource to fund employment expenses
- Department of Rehabilitation
  - [Work Incentive Planning Services](#) – Help navigating employment while managing disability benefits
- Employment Development Department (EDD)
  - [Employment Services for People with Disabilities](#)
- [PRIDE Industries](#) - Connects people with disabilities with job opportunities

# 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.





## Maximizing Your CalABLE Account

November 19, 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:  
886 1431 4417



### CalABLE Monthly Webinar Series

Register now:



[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gXb6plttQaqqwa3kpWTxew](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gXb6plttQaqqwa3kpWTxew)

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](http://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
- End of Year Savings
- Gifting
- 529 Rollovers



**Detalles en español en el  
post de abajo**



## **Fill out the anonymous webinar survey!**

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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

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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

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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 light blue and one medium blue, cupping a globe. The hands are positioned on the left and right sides of the globe, with fingers slightly curled. The globe is a darker shade of blue and is centered in the background. The entire graphic is set against a solid blue background.

# Thank you!