



CalABLE and Special Needs Trusts

Featuring Proxy Parent Foundation



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.



Disclaimer

This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.





Welcome

Fiona Ma
California State Treasurer



CalABLE and Special Needs Trusts

Featuring Proxy Parent Foundation





CalABLE accounts and Special Needs Trusts work great together!

- CalABLE is easy to set up, has tax-free earnings, and can receive gifts
- SNTs have no annual contribution limits or maximum caps, and can receive large inheritances
- Establish a SNT and a CalABLE account, and you can have more options, more flexibility, and more independence

Poll: I am a...

- ☒ Account owner
- ☒ Authorized legal representative / Parent

- ☒ State Employee
- ☒ Service Provider

- ☒ Potential CalABLE participant
- ☒ Other



Poll:

Do you have a Special Needs Trust?



Yes



No



I'm planning to set one up



Poll:

Have you attended a CalABLE Webinar before?

☐ Yes

☐ No



CalABLE Basics



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

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



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

Who is eligible for CalABLE?

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...

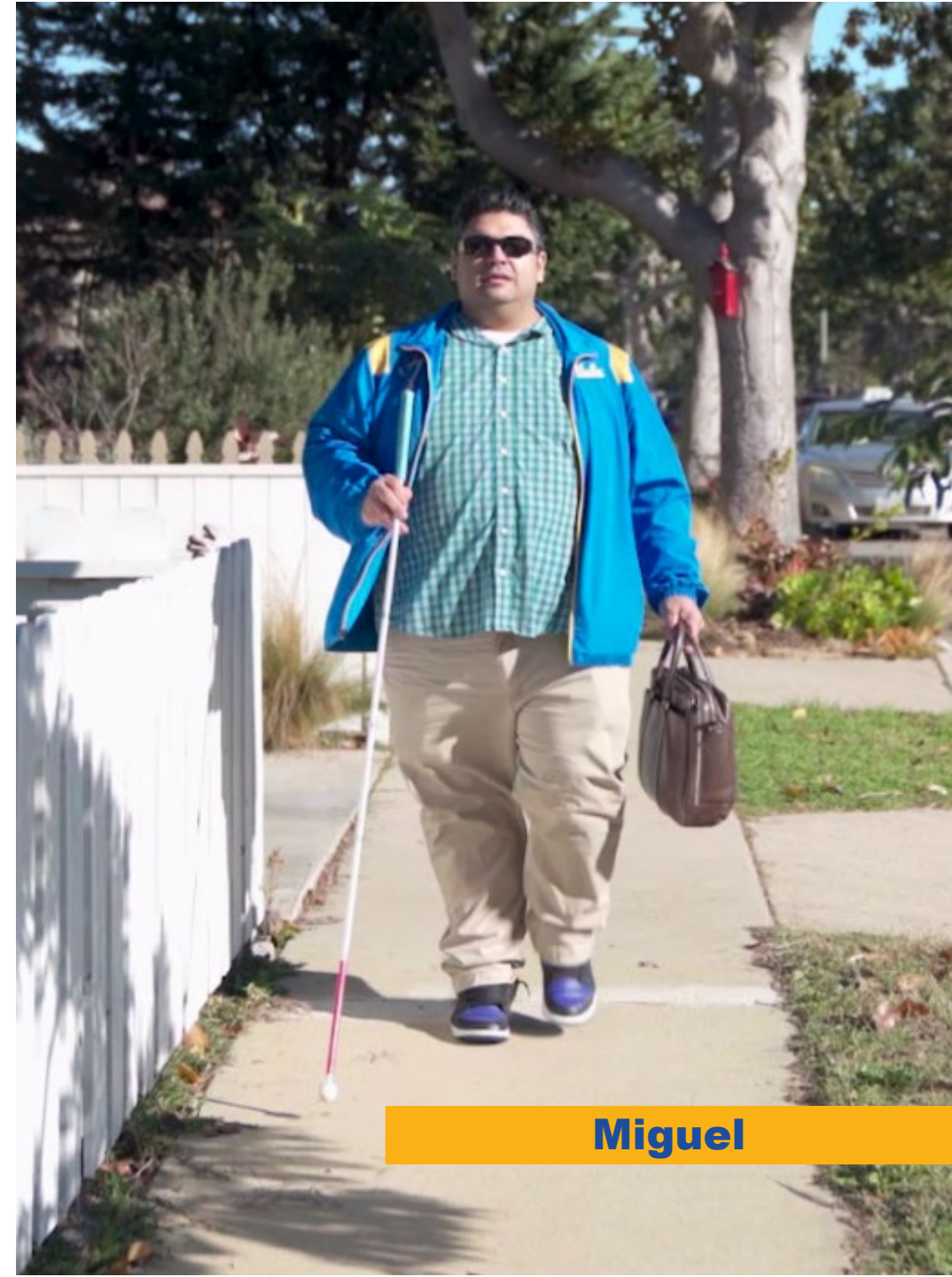


Tianni

ABLE Age Adjustment

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

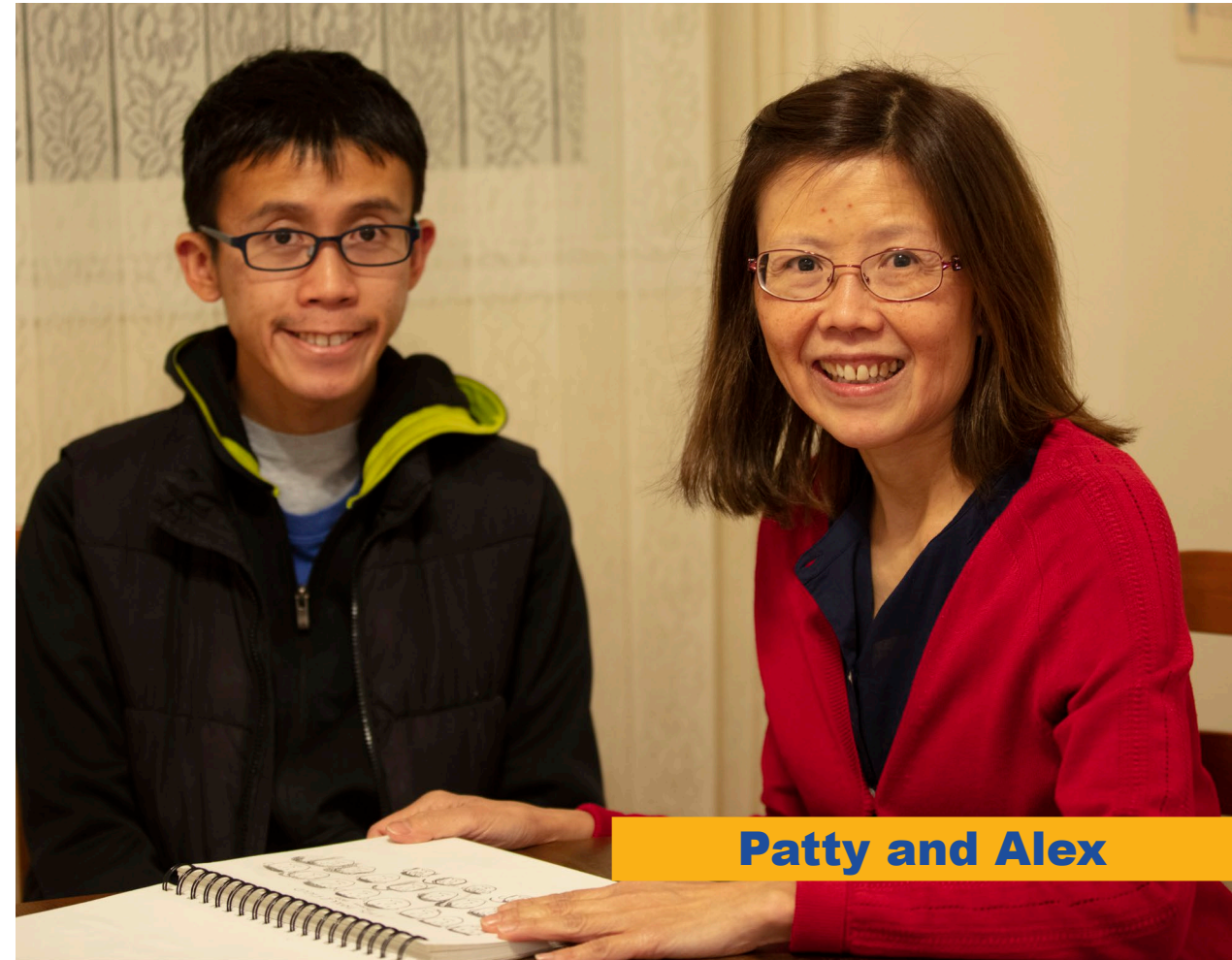


Miguel



Who can open a **CalABLE** 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



Patty and Alex

Who can be an Authorized Representative:

Legal guardian/conservator

Spouse

Parent

Sibling

Grandparent

Power of attorney

Representative payee appointed for the eligible individual by the Social Security Administration

Anyone requested by the account owner

You can also add Authorized Users:

CalABLE account owners can now give account access to trusted family members and financial advisors. With Authorized Users, you can maintain your account security and choose just how much others can see when they access your account.

<https://calable.ca.gov/faqs/how-do-i-give-other-individuals-access-to-my-account>

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 SSI?

You can continue to contribute until your account reaches:

\$529,000

(contributions + earnings)

CalABLE will automatically reject excess contributions

In 2026, the annual contribution limit will be \$20,000.



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

Who can contribute to a CalABLE account?

Beneficiary

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

3rd Party

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

Contribution Limit:
\$19,000

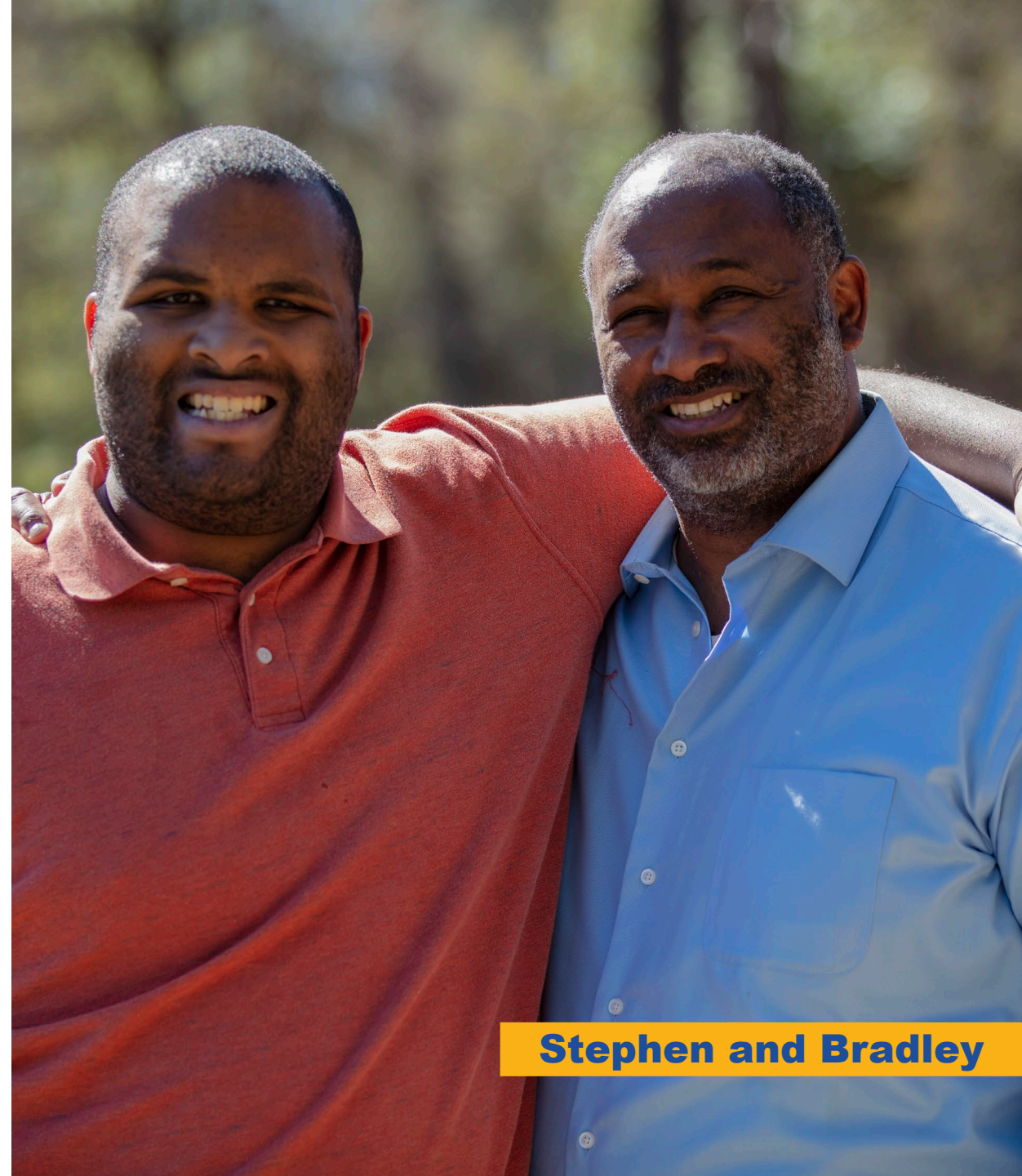
Invest for the future

- 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

Poll:

What are you saving for?

☒ First home

☒ Education

☒ Service dog

☒ Retirement

☒ Accessible vehicle

☒ Technology or equipment

☒ Health and wellness

☒ Recreation and vacation



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

*For SSI recipients, housing expenses must be withdrawn and spent in the same calendar month.

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

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.

Medi-Cal Recovery

CalABLE accounts 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 estate exceeds
the threshold for
formal probate
(\$208,850 as of
2025).

The member received
certain services like
nursing facility or home
and community-based
services.

No surviving spouse,
registered domestic
partner, child under 21,
or disabled child.

Successor Designated Beneficiary

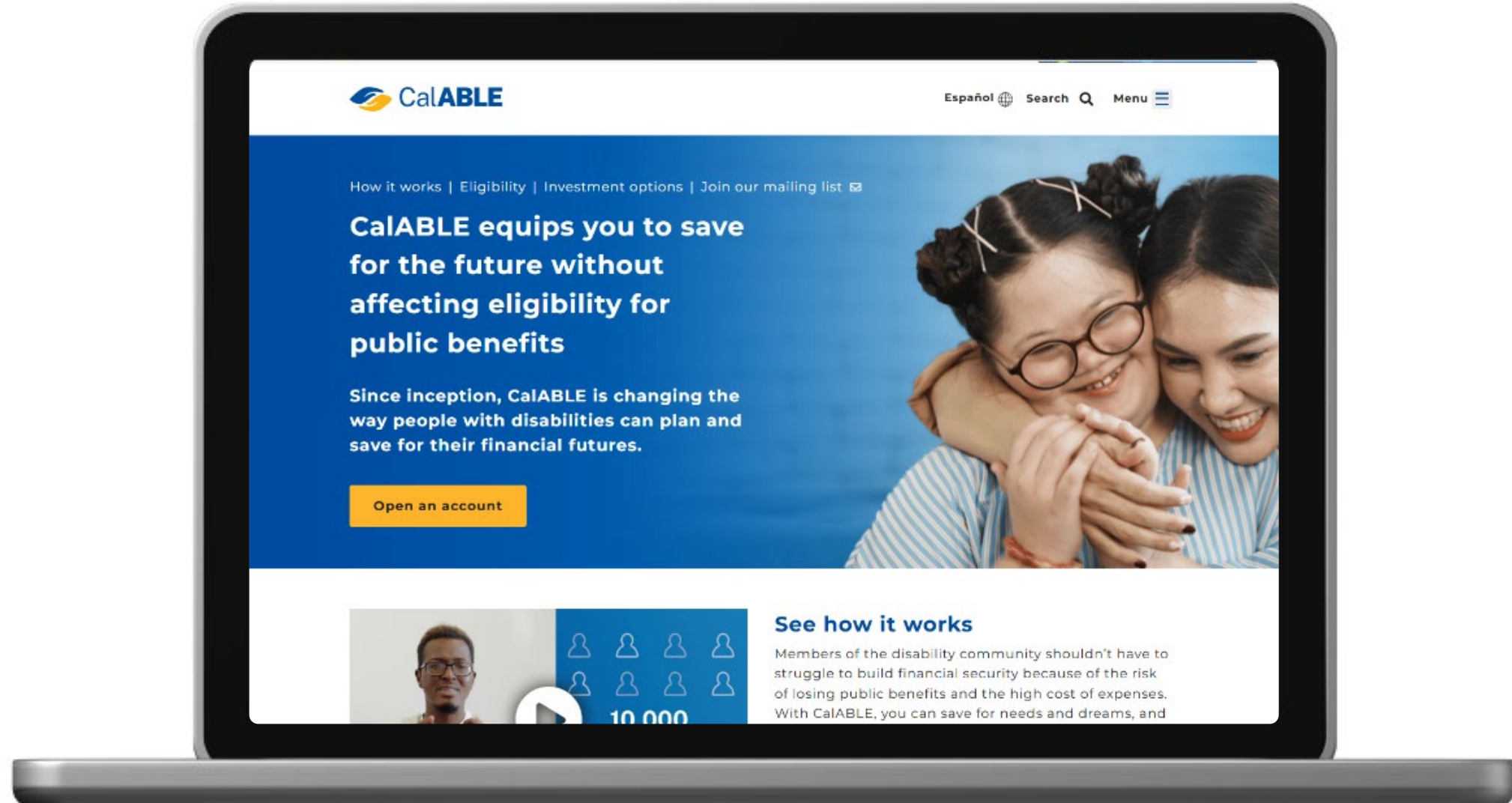
- A Successor Designated Beneficiary for a CalABLE account must be a sibling, step-sibling, or halfsibling of the designated beneficiary, and must also have a qualifying disability.
- A successor must be added to the account before the death of the beneficiary.
- You can add a successor in the CalABLE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



Cheryl, Sol, and Micah

*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>

Get started: CalABLE.ca.gov

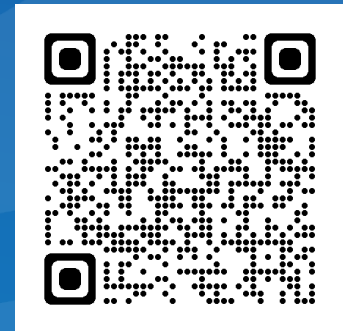


Accounts can be opened in 20 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, and Korean

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.



Proxy Parent Foundation

Who Will Care When I'm Not There?



Carmen Bowen, Executive Director & Carol Larkin, Director of Client Relations

About Us

Proxy Parent Foundation (PPF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting people with disabilities by:

- Safeguarding their access to public benefits programs through the creation and administration of a PLAN of California Special Needs Trusts (SNT)
- Providing “family-like” Personal Support Services



What is a Special Needs Trust?

An estate planning tool that allows its beneficiary to shelter assets and protect qualification for certain government benefits.

A person can have a stand-alone Special Needs Trust or join a Master Pooled Trust like [Proxy Parent Foundation](#).

Why Establish a Special Needs Trust?

To ensure that any inheritance or financial gift does not disqualify your relative from public benefits like SSI or Medi-Cal

Stand-alone Special Needs Trust vs. Master Pooled Trust

Feature	Stand-alone Special Needs Trust (SNT)	PLAN of CA Master Pooled Trust
Structure	Individually drafted trust tailored to one beneficiary.	Beneficiary joins a pre-existing nonprofit-run master trust with standardized terms.
Trustee	Family member, friend, or professional fiduciary; trustee is chosen by the family.	Nonprofit organization serves as sole trustee, however, family input is welcome.
Management Style	Highly individualized management; trustee can adapt distributions and investments to family preferences and beneficiary's unique circumstances.	Standardized administration; nonprofit follows uniform policies for all sub-accounts.
Costs	Higher upfront legal fees for custom drafting; ongoing trustee fees vary by provider.	Lower entry cost with flat enrollment and annual administrative fees.
Asset Size	Acceptance varies by provider.	No asset minimum or maximum to join.
Medicaid Payback	First-party SNT: Medi-Cal must be repaid. Third-party SNT: no payback—remaining funds can go to heirs.	First-party SNT: Medi-Cal must be repaid. Third-party SNT: no payback—remaining funds can go to heirs.



How Can a Special Needs Trust Be Used?

- To supplement rather than supplant government benefits

Ensures beneficiary is able to benefit from both funding sources continuously

- To pay for extra medical, education, recreation, and social services not covered by public benefits

Examples: Computer, internet, AAC device, cell phone, personal need items, etc.

- Supplement food and shelter in specific instances

Any restrictions imposed are done so by benefit agencies

Types of Special Needs Trusts

First Party Trust

- Funded with a disabled person's own assets such as a personal injury award, settlement, or inheritance
- May or may not require court petition by a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian
- When the beneficiary dies, any remaining funds are subject to rules that require the Trust to repay the state for any Medi-Cal benefits previously received

Third Party Trust

- Someone other than the beneficiary provides the asset such as a family member or other concerned party
- When the beneficiary dies, no Medi-Cal payback is required. Instead, the Grantor may designate who receives the remaining funds after a 25% retention by PLAN of California as a non-profit trustee.

Disbursements

Checks

- Checks can be cut on a recurring basis or occasionally as needed
 - Examples: phone bill, reimbursing a trusted adult for purchases they made, etc.

True Link Card

- A prepaid Visa card that can be used for more flexible spending
 - Examples: haircut, clothes shopping, etc.

CalAble Account

- SNT funds can be used to fund a CalAble account for more flexible spending
 - Until annual contribution limit is met



PLAN of California Master Pooled Trust

Accepts First and Third Party Trusts

We provide the trustee

- Conversely, in a stand-alone trust, you would have to find someone to serve as the trustee

Funds are pooled for investment purposes and lower management fees

A separate account is maintained for each individual beneficiary

- Any gains made on an individual account remain with that individual account

We welcome family involvement in all matters



Eligibility

The PLAN of California Master Pooled Trust is open to:

- All disability types
- All ages
- All California residents



Personal Support Services

Proxy Parent Foundation hires and supervises Personal Support Specialists that work directly with our beneficiaries in their local communities. **Service examples may include assistance with the following:**

- Finding and maintaining housing
- Applying for and maintaining public benefits
- Obtaining and maintaining medical and dental care
- Developing and maintaining friendships, recreation, and quality of life
- Support with life skills such as budgeting

Our Personal Support Specialists, or Proxy Parents, step into the shoes of a loving family member and act as a caring advocate and friend.

Why Proxy Parent Foundation?



A Private Solution to a Public Dilemma

- Provides services more efficiently and cost effectively than can be provided independently
- Marries the expertise of the business world with the compassion of the nonprofit world
- A model of what dedicated community members and disability advocates can accomplish

Our Personal Support Services will give you peace of mind and help answer the question, “who will care when I’m not there?”



Why Proxy Parent Foundation?

In addition to what other pooled trusts may provide, the PLAN of California Master Pooled Trust Offers:

- Enrollment without court approval simply by signing a **Joinder Agreement**
- No asset minimum or maximum to join
- Investment Management: **Lindbrook Capital**
- Custodian of Funds: **Fidelity Investments**
- Trust Agent: **ML Management**
- **Proxy Parent** Personal Support Services



Pay-As-You-Go Program

Our **Pay-As-You-Go Program** allows families who have set up a trust with us to receive Personal Support Services in the “here and now.” It’s an option for families seeking extra support and care.

- Examples:
 - Families seeking to transition their disabled loved one to a new housing arrangement outside of the home
 - Times of crisis
 - Respite

The **Pay-As-You-Go Program** makes it possible for a beneficiary to establish a strong rapport with a Personal Support Specialist while the grantor is still alive.

Joining Proxy Parent Foundation

How to Set up a PLAN of California Special Needs Trust

- ✓ Pay an enrollment fee
 - \$1000 if opting into Personal Support Services
 - \$1800 if opting out of Personal Support Services
- ✓ Complete necessary assessments with staff
- ✓ With your attorney, finalize and sign a Joinder Agreement
 - If the Trust will be funded through your will or trust, consult with your attorney to insert the necessary “bridging language” into your living trust or will
- ✓ Return two signed and notarized originals of the Joinder Agreement
- ✓ Then live a long, happy life!

Please note additional documents may be required depending on whether or not Personal Support Services are being provided

Annual Fees/Costs

- ✓ Annual Trust Maintenance Fee
 - 1.75% of trust balance for balances up to \$100,000
 - 1.50% for balances between \$100,000 - \$300,000
 - 1.25% for balances over \$300,000with a minimum annual trustee fee of \$750
- ✓ Investment Management Fee
 - 1% of trust balance
- ✓ IRS Tax Prep Fee
 - \$285/annually
- ✓ Personal Support Services
 - \$85/hour plus mileage and travel time
 - 15% administration fee based upon the hours provided



Special Needs Trust Planning Tips

Question for Families to Consider:

Who will be the trustee?

Does the trustee know how to invest and manage the funds?

If trustee is a family member, will it cause problems?

What sort of oversight will the trustee have?

Does the trustee know how to serve the needs of the beneficiary?

Will the trustee be able to keep up with changing government benefits regulations?

Will the trustee understand the tax requirements?



Thank You

Questions?

Contact Information:



PROXYPARENTFOUNDATION.ORG



714-997-3310



INFO@PROXYPARENTFOUNDATION.ORG
CLARKIN @PROXYPARENTFOUNDATION.ORG



Reminders

CalABLE vs. Special Needs Trusts – Administration

	CalABLE	Special Needs Trusts
Eligibility	Anyone with a disability that began before age 26 (increases to age 46 in 2026).	3rd Party Trust: Anyone with a disability. 1st Party Trust: Anyone under age 65 with a disability.
Set Up	Can open by yourself online in 20 minutes or less.	Generally, need to work with an attorney to create, but a pooled trust can help.
Ownership & Control	Individual with a disability is the owner. They, or an Authorized Legal Representative, can manage and spend the money.	A Trustee manages the Trust and has sole discretion over spending.
Eligible Expenses	Broad range of allowable uses, including food and housing.	Broad range of allowable uses, but housing may affect benefits.
Who Can Contribute	Anyone.	3rd Party Trust: Anyone except the person with a disability. 1st Party Trust: The person with a disability, conservator, guardian, agent, court.
Does It Protect Benefits?	Yes!	Yes!

CalABLE vs. Special Needs Trusts - Finances

	CalABLE	Special Needs Trusts
Cost	Free to open. Fees start at just \$30 a year. Some investment choices have additional fees.	Varies; anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand to start, plus ongoing costs.
Contribution Limits	\$19K/year (possibly more if individual is employed). Can have up to \$100,000 in the account for SSI recipients, up to \$529,000 for everyone else.	No limits.
Medi-Cal Payback	Medi-Cal will not seek recovery from a CalABLE account in most cases.	Only first-party (self-settled) trusts must pay back Medi-Cal.
Investment Options	Yes, 8 options. Offers ability to grow your money. Account owner or Authorized Legal Representative chooses how to invest.	Yes, options vary. Offers ability to grow your money. Trustee chooses how to invest.
Taxes	No taxes on earnings as long as the account is only used for qualified expenses.	Earnings are taxed.



Remember: CalABLE accounts and Special Needs Trusts each have their strengths and limitations. But they work very well together!

Establish a Special Needs Trust and a CalABLE account, and you can have more options, more flexibility, and more independence.



Get your 2025 CalABLE contributions in!

Electronic contributions must be entered by 1 PM PT on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Check contributions must be received (in good order) by Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

- 2025 annual contribution limit: \$19,000
- ABLE to Work additional contributions: \$15,060





CalABLE 101

Everything you need to know about
CalABLE for 2026

January 28, 2026

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:
817 2236 3823



CalABLE Monthly Webinar Series

Register now:



https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8lKr5zoSQXuByCsJk9EGRA

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 46.

In this webinar, we will explore:

- What is CalABLE?
- Eligibility
- New contribution limits
- How to open an account
- Resources



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



Fill out the anonymous webinar survey!

1. I am a... CalABLE participant, ALR, potential CalABLE participant, service provider, State employee, other.
2. Email (optional if you would like follow-up)
3. Do you have any questions we didn't answer?
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. Would you recommend 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 light blue and one medium blue, cupping a globe. The hands are positioned symmetrically on either side of the globe, with fingers slightly curled. The globe is a darker shade of blue and is centered in the background.

Thank you!