



CalABLE and Social Security

June 24, 2026

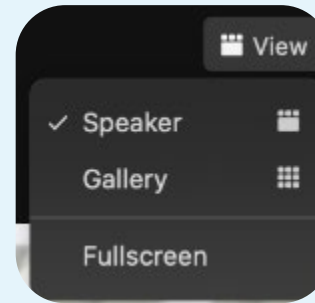


Webinar Setup



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



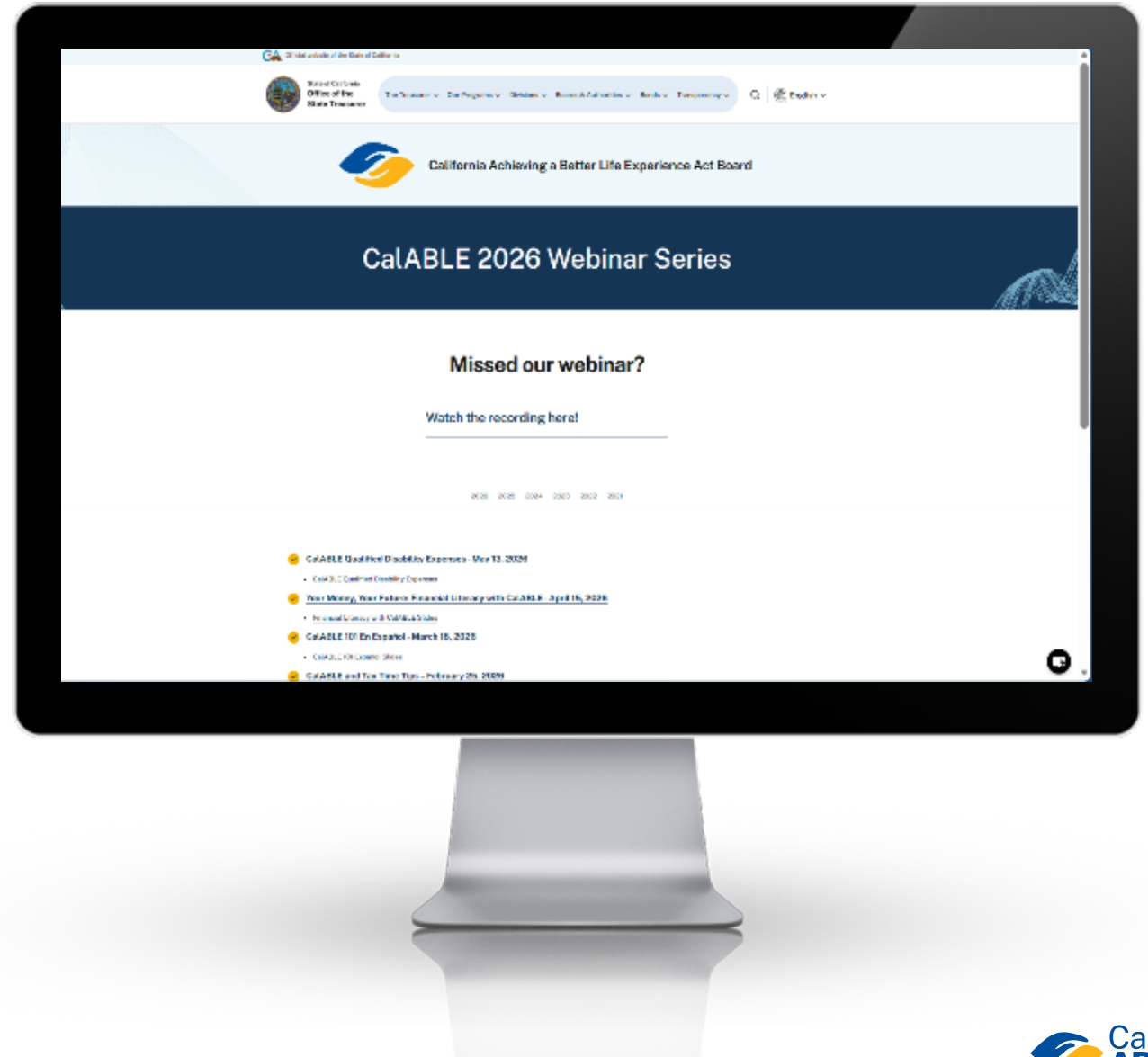
Captioning

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/2026/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.

Please note that the Social Security portion of today's presentation will *not* be included in the recording.





Welcome

Fiona Ma

California State Treasurer

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





CalABLE and Social Security

June 24, 2026



What is CalABLE?



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

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

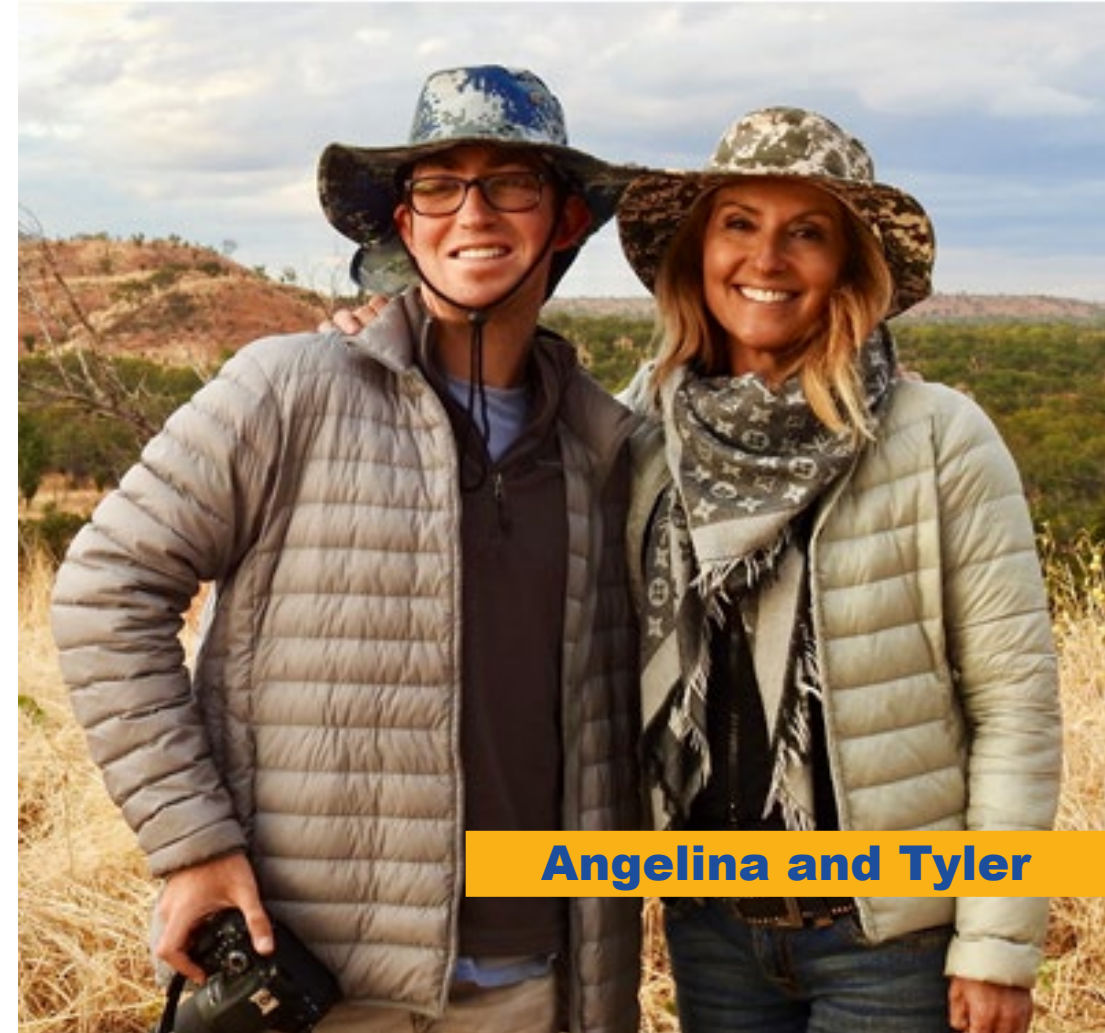


Why have a CalABLE account?

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

Who is eligible?

Who is eligible for CalABLE?

Anyone with an eligible disability can have a CalABLE account

- You can open the account at any age as long as your disability began before your 46th birthday
- You do not need to receive benefits
- There are no income requirements

For more information including lists of eligible disabilities, go to <https://calable.ca.gov/eligibility>



Tianni



CaABLE protects benefits

CaABLE 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

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



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

\$2,000



Now with CaABLE,
you can save up to

\$100,000

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 and sometimes property
- Money you have in a bank account

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

SSI versus SSDI

SSI

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

SSDI

- Looks at income
- Does not look at assets
- Can save up to \$529,000 with 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 (gifts) 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

* Please note: Employment income contributed into a CalABLE account is still considered income



Adrienne

How much you can contribute to your CalABLE account?

In 2026, you can contribute up to:

\$20,000

(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

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-CAL-ABLE or 833-225-2253

* Please note: The full payment will be direct deposited. You cannot do partial payments.



Miguel

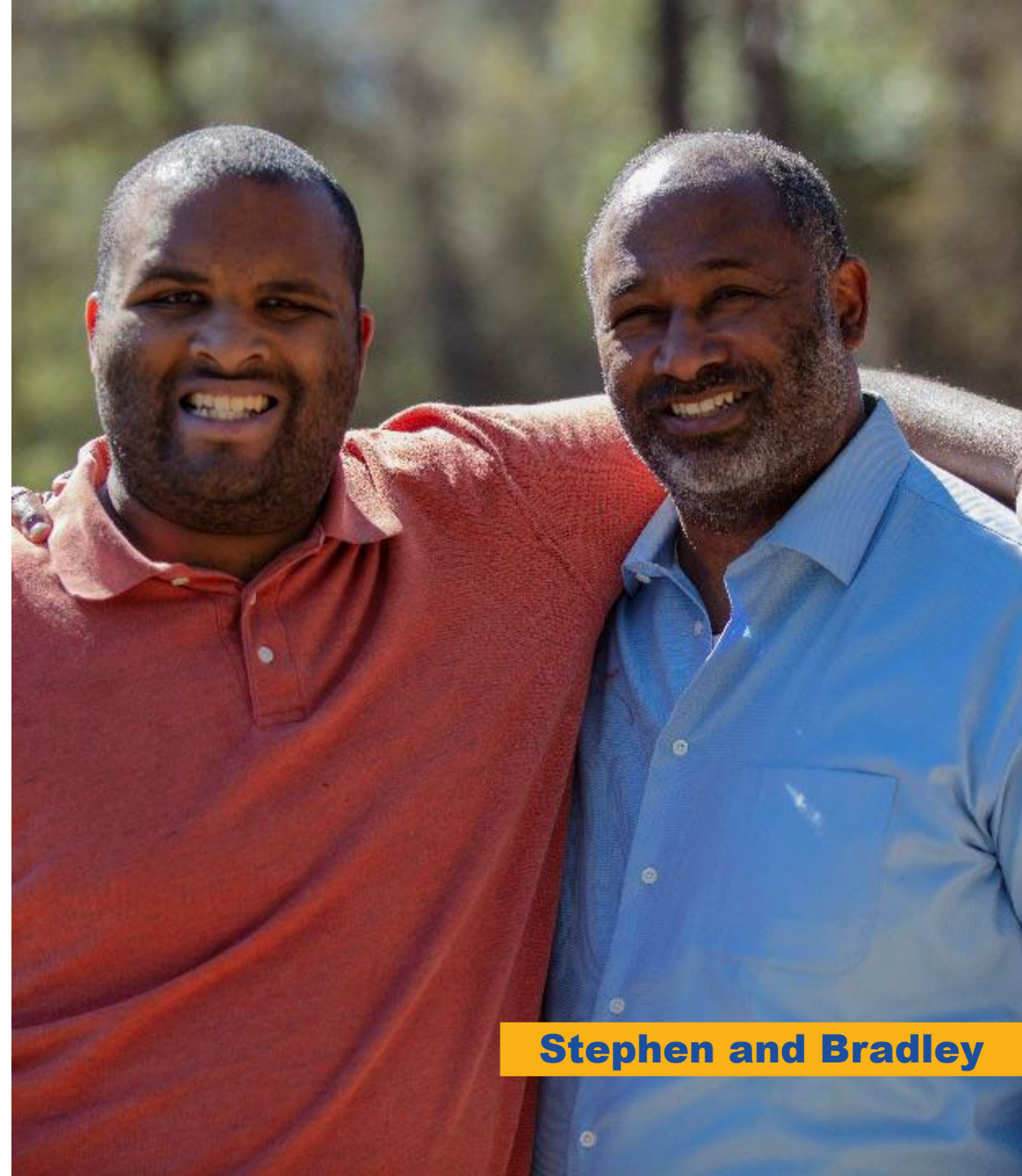
Invest for the future

- 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

Recreation and vacation

Accessible vehicle

Technology or equipment

Health and wellness

Emergencies



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

Health and wellness

Basic needs
including food

And much more!

Access your money easily

- CalABLE offers a prepaid Visa card with no monthly fees. The card can be used anywhere Visa debit card is accepted.
- Funds can also be spent via transfers or mailed checks.
- There are no penalties for spending, so the funds can be accessed at any time!

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



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



Patty and Alex



“[For my birthday] I asked folks... this is my ABLE account, you can make a donation. And I ended up getting enough money to put down a downpayment for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom mobile home.”

Héctor Ramírez

Account Holder and CalABLE Ambassador

**What happens when the
account holder passes away?**

What happens when a beneficiary passes away?

CalABLE can still offer some protections after the death of a beneficiary.

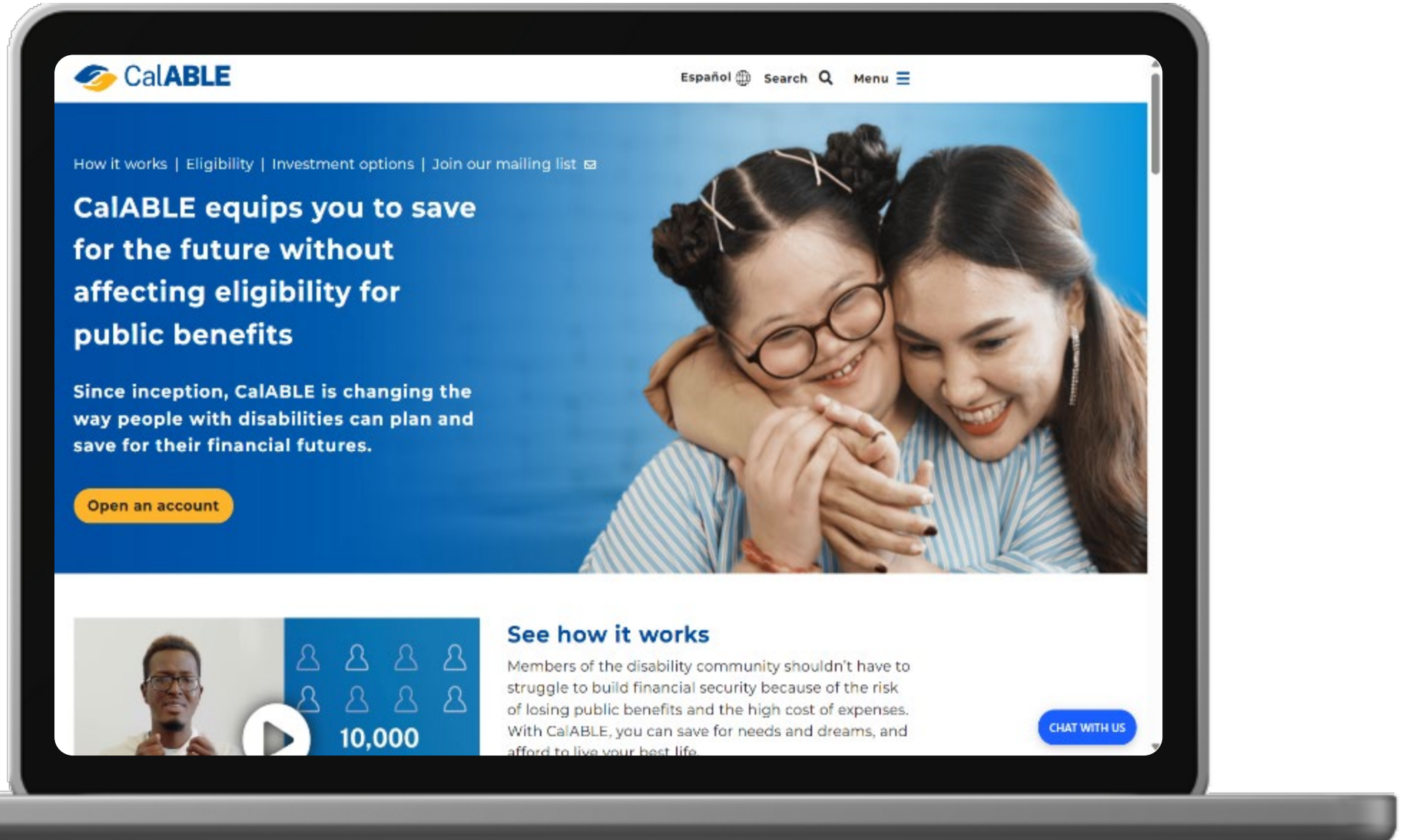
- Funds from a CalABLE account can be used pay for any outstanding eligible expenses, including funeral and burial costs
- Funds can be transferred to an ABLE account held by a sibling, step-sibling, or halfsibling, if they are eligible and if they are designated prior to death
- In most cases, CalABLE accounts are exempt from Medi-Cal estate recovery (see the [CalABLE Program Disclosure Statement](#) for details)
- Any remaining funds become part of the beneficiary's estate, although they would be subject to taxes

An executor or administrator of a beneficiary's estate should consult with qualified tax and legal advisors regarding the estate, including the potential for Medi-Cal recapture and any tax implications.

How do I open a CalABLE Account?



[Get started today: CalABLE.ca.gov](https://CalABLE.ca.gov)





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

- The account can be opened by the person with a disability or an Authorized Legal Representative
- Authorized users can also be added to help monitor or manage the account
- The person with a disability is always the ABLE account owner and beneficiary of the funds
- Each person can only have one ABLE account



Brooke, Joshua and Johnathan

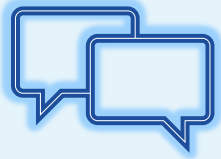
Contact Us

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.



Resources



[Help Chat](#)



[CalABLE YouTube Channel](#)



[Forms](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

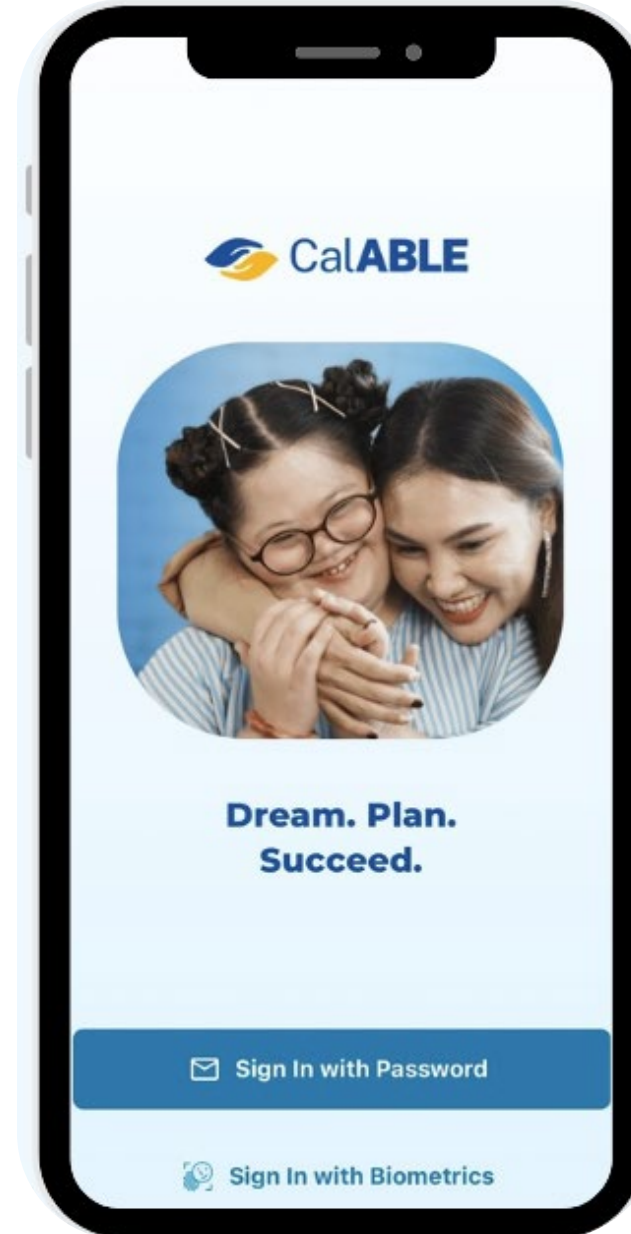
Stay up to date with the latest news and join the conversation on social media

Reminders

Recap

It takes 15 minutes to get started!

- **Get the Mobile App:** Access your CalABLE account on the go – and don't forget to leave a review!
- **20 different language translations:** Create and manage your CalABLE account in your first language
- **Chat feature:** Use the **blue** “HELP CHAT” button on the CalABLE website to get quick and thorough answers to your CalABLE questions



[Download
Apple Mobile App](#)



[Download
Android Mobile App](#)





Understanding CalABLE and Medi-Cal

July 15, 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:
871 6068 4230



CalABLE Monthly Webinar Series

Register now:



https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__PxHZkIFRHmb6fNUXWJnrw#/registration

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:

- CalABLE basics and eligibility
- Medi-Cal basics and eligibility
- CalABLE & Medi-Cal Interaction
- Medi-Cal estate recovery

**Featuring DHCS Program
Representatives**





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



CaABLE Disclosure

The CaABLE Program is administered by the California State Treasurer's Office. Before investing, please carefully read the Program Disclosure booklet (available at calable.ca.gov) to learn more about the program, including its effect on federal and state benefits, investment objectives, risks, fees, and tax implications. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures the FDIC-Insured Portfolio up to \$250,000, subject to certain restrictions. Account balances in CaABLE will vary with market conditions and are not guaranteed or insured by the State of California or Vestwell Government Savings dba Vestwell State Savings. You could lose money. This information is provided for educational purposes and is not a recommendation; please consult your own financial, tax, or other advisor before making any investment decisions.

Thank You