

TEXAS *able* CONNECTIONS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TEXAS ABLE® PROGRAM — HELPING TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES SAVE FOR A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE.

The ABLE Connections newsletter is your resource for learning more about the Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®) Program. This quarterly newsletter will highlight features of the program and provide updates and important reminders.



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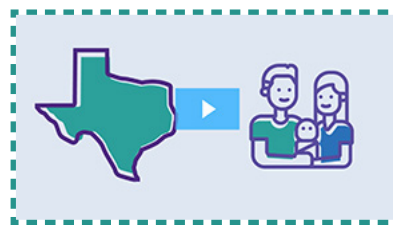
The new year is the perfect time to review and reflect on your achievements and progress over the past year, and most importantly, set goals for the year ahead.

In January, the annual contribution limit for an ABLE account increased from \$16,000 to \$17,000. Also, through the ABLE to Work Act, eligible individuals who are employed may be able to save an additional \$13,590 in working wages – that’s up to \$30,590 per year.

As you set goals for the year ahead, keep the increased annual contribution limit and new ABLE to Work guidelines in mind. Learn more about the guidelines in this [article](#) from Disability Scoop.

Don’t have a Texas ABLE account? [Enroll](#) online today!

If you have questions, contact one of our customer service team members at 844-4TX-ABLE (844-489-2253) or send us an [email](#). Customer service hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CT, excluding holidays.



WATCH OUR NEW VIDEO

Check out our new [informational video](#) for a quick overview of all the basics of Texas ABLE and details on how to get started today.

ABOUT TEXAS ABLE

The Texas ABLE Program was authorized under the [federal ABLE Act](#), which was signed into law in December 2014, and then established through the [Texas ABLE Act](#), which was passed by the Texas Legislature in 2015. The [Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board](#), with assistance from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, administers the program.



Texas ABLE Program Updates

In November 2022, the IRS issued final regulations that provide guidance regarding the hierarchy of persons who have authority to establish an ABLE account if the eligible individual with the disability is unable to or chooses not to manage the account. The following individuals, in the order named, may open the account:

1. agent under a power of attorney
2. legal guardian or conservator
3. spouse
4. parent
5. sibling
6. grandparent
7. representative payee appointed by the Social Security Administration

The final regulations provide that the ABLE program may accept a certification by the person, under penalties of perjury, that he or she has authority to open the account and that there is no other person with a higher priority willing and able to do so.

Texas ABLE will accept the following types of documents, if submitted in good order, to demonstrate that an individual has legal authority to open an account on behalf of the eligible individual:

Power of Attorney: a Power of Attorney instrument (such as our [Limited Power of Attorney form](#)), a trust agreement or other legal document proving fiduciary status.

Legal Guardian: a valid court order or other documentation establishing legal guardianship of the beneficiary.

Conservator: a valid court order or other documentation establishing a conservatorship for the beneficiary.

Spouse: beneficiary’s marriage certificate.

Parent: beneficiary’s birth certificate or adoption order.

Sibling: birth certificates or adoption orders for both the beneficiary and the sibling.

Grandparent: birth certificates or adoption orders for both the beneficiary and the beneficiary’s parent(s).

Representative Payee: the letter appointing the Representative Payee for the beneficiary.

Visit our [FAQs](#) for information about opening a Texas ABLE account as an Authorized Legal Representative of the beneficiary.

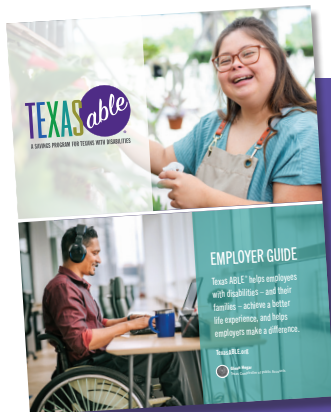
NEW AND IMPROVED PROGRAM DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Texas ABLE Program Disclosure Statement (PDS) is a one-stop shop for an in-depth understanding of how Texas ABLE accounts work and is a “must read” as you prepare to open an account. We’ve redesigned the PDS, which includes an interactive table of contents, formatting updates and a list of helpful key terms. Key terms are words and phrases that you will find throughout the document. Check out the entire document [here](#).

HOW EMPLOYERS CAN PARTNER WITH TEXAS ABLE:

- Educate employees about Texas ABLE accounts to raise awareness and understanding.
- Include Texas ABLE information as part of your HR onboarding package.
- Provide Texas ABLE information and links on your internal website.
- Offer direct deposit for employees. Employees can gather the routing and transit number from their Texas ABLE account or a loved one’s account and provide the information to the employer for direct deposit.
- Contribute directly to the Texas ABLE account. Employers can offer matching contributions or even contribute a flat percentage to anyone who has an eligible account.

If you are an employer interested in offering Texas ABLE as a benefit to your employees, please contact the Texas ABLE outreach team at TexasABLE@cpa.texas.gov or 512-475-5331.



EMPLOYERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As employers prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion, it’s important to focus on ALL employees. ABLE accounts are an important financial wellness benefit for people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Sharing information about ABLE is easy. Payroll deduction and matching gift or contribution programs like those for retirement savings can be set up for ABLE accounts.

Texas ABLE helps employees with disabilities – and their families – achieve a better life experience, and helps employers make a difference.



Back to the Basics: Our Top Questions Answered

CONGRESS PASSES THE ABLE AGE ADJUSTMENT ACT

The passage of the ABLE Age Adjustment Act is a big win for the disability community. The act will expand ABLE eligibility to individuals whose disability occurred before age 46. Starting Jan. 1, 2026, millions more Americans with disabilities will have the ability to save and plan for the future thanks to the act's expansion of the age limit for onset of disability from 26 to 46.



TEXAS ABLE OUTREACH TEAM



SPOTLIGHT ON THE DISABILITY:IN CONFERENCE

The Texas ABLE outreach team continues to educate Texans about Texas ABLE through virtual and in-person events. The team recently hosted a booth at the Disability:IN conference in Dallas, Texas – connecting with major employers statewide and Texans with disabilities. Many were familiar with ABLE accounts and eager to learn how they could get information back to employees at the corporate level and /or add Texas ABLE to their benefit packages.

We are taking it back to the basics of ABLE and plan to use this section in our quarterly newsletters to highlight some common ABLE-related topics and definitions. In our previous issue, we covered disability expenses. In this issue, let's take a closer look at ABLE accounts and how they work with certain government benefits.

How do ABLE accounts affect federal means-tested benefits?

The ABLE Act states that funds in an ABLE account generally won't affect eligibility for federally funded, means-tested benefits. This means you can save funds in your Texas ABLE account and keep certain means-tested benefits.

We've highlighted a few Q&As from the Social Security Administration's 2022 edition of the [Spotlight on ABLE Accounts](#), which covers rules for all ABLE accounts.

Do ABLE account balances count toward the SSI statutory resource limit?

Up to and including \$100,000 in the person's ABLE account is excluded from being treated as a countable resource for SSI benefits calculations. Assets above \$100,000 count as a resource for SSI purposes.

What happens if an SSI recipient has more than \$100,000 in an ABLE account?

If the ABLE account balance exceeds \$100,000, SSI benefits will be temporarily suspended until such time as the ABLE account balance no longer exceeds \$100,000 (assuming that the individual otherwise remains eligible for SSI).

Will Medicaid be suspended if the ABLE account exceeds \$100,000?

No. Medicaid eligibility continues even if the ABLE account balance exceeds \$100,000 as long as the individual remains otherwise eligible for SSI.

CONNECT WITH US

Our customer service team is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. CT, excluding holidays. Send us an [email](#) or give us a call at 844-4TX-ABLE (844-489-2253).



UPCOMING TEXAS ABLE WEBINARS

Whether you're a parent, caregiver, advocacy organization or individual interested in learning more about Texas ABLE – we've got you covered.

Our upcoming webinars will cover the basics of the program, answer the following questions and more:

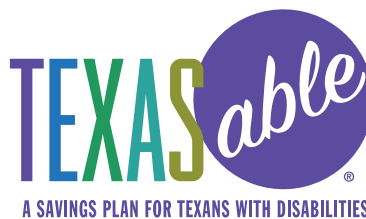
- What is a Texas ABLE account?
- Who is eligible to open or be the beneficiary of a Texas ABLE account?
- How can I use the money in a Texas ABLE account?
- What are the features and benefits of the Texas ABLE Program?
- How do I open a Texas ABLE account?
- How do I contribute and withdraw funds from a Texas ABLE account?

Visit our [events page](#) to register.



STATE OF TEXAS OFFERS PREPAID TUITION PLAN AND COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

In addition to the Texas ABLE Program, the state of Texas offers tax-advantaged options for individuals saving for college. You can find more information at [SaveNowForCollege.org](https://www.savethenowforcollege.org).



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with the Program. The Board may suspend, modify, or terminate the Program or change investment approaches, offerings, and/or underlying investment funds at any time and without the consent of account owners, authorized legal representatives, or beneficiaries. The [Program Disclosure Statement and Participation Agreement](#) contain this and other important information about the Program and may be obtained by visiting [TexasABLE.org](https://www.texasable.org) or calling 844-4TX-ABLE (844-489-2253). Investors should read the Program Disclosure Statement and Participation Agreement, and all other Program documents carefully before investing.

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