

Nov. 8-9, 2018

THE ABLE TRUST v. ABLE ACCOUNTS

The Able Trust

<http://www.abletrust.org/>

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The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be a key leader in **providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment**. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has worked with community organizations throughout the state to help thousands of Floridians with disabilities enter the workforce. The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition to many students with disabilities annually, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school.

**INTERNSHIPS LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT**

Jennifer Golisansos ARC Broward, a strategic employment grant awardee, created a Center for Financial Literacy Program that has helped more than 225 individuals. Of that number, 77 have gained employment. One of the primary objectives of this program is to increase the financial literacy of participants, and ARC Broward has achieved this with specialized curriculum developed on a national level and implemented locally. A Financial Social Work Educator/Coach was added to the staff to give participants who gain employment additional support in sound personal finance strategies and habits.

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Able Accounts

<https://www.ableunited.com/>

1-888-524-ABLE (2253)

[CustomerService@ableunited.com](mailto:CustomerService@ableunited.com), PO Box 44034, Jacksonville, FL 32231

An ABLE United account offers Floridians with disabilities **a tax-free way to save while maintaining government benefits**.

Eligibility: Must be a Florida resident at the time of application and have a qualifying disability with onset prior to age 26.

Government Benefits: Generally, funds in (or withdrawn from) an ABLE United account are disregarded when determining Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid eligibility.

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## Qualified Disability Expenses

If the money in an ABLE United account is spent on one of the following Qualified Disability Expenses, as defined by federal law, the earnings on the money withdrawn are tax-free.

In general, Qualified Disability Expenses include, but is not limited to, the following types of expenses: education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and related services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial, and basic living expenses.

**How It Works:** Open an account: Takes about 15 minutes. The individual with a disability owns the account, but an authorized person may open and oversee the account.

**Contribute:** No minimum contribution. Save up to \$15,000 per year – individually or with the help of family and friends.

**Choose investments:** Choose from three predesigned portfolios to meet the needs of most investors or four individual funds to build a custom portfolio for those with more investment experience.

**Withdraw:** Easily access funds online by requesting an electronic transfer to a bank account or a paper check.

**Investment Options:** Choose a predesigned portfolio or build from the individual fund options.

<b>Predesigned Portfolios:</b>	<b>Fund Options:</b>
Conservative Portfolio	Money Market (Florida PRIME)
Moderate Portfolio	U.S. Bond Fund (Vanguard)
Growth Portfolio	U.S. Stock Fund (Vanguard)
International Stock Fund (BlackRock)	

**Save on Fees:** Free to enroll. No monthly maintenance fee with eDelivery.

### **IMPORTANT** **(Re: Able Accounts)**

#### **SECTION 6: ABLE AND GOVERNMENT BENEFITS**

Pursuant to federal law, funds in an ABLE United account are generally disregarded for purposes of determining eligibility to receive government assistance or benefits. This

includes contributions, earnings and withdrawals for Qualified Disability Expenses. Further, contributions to an ABLE United account, including funds contributed by a third party, are generally not considered income to the Beneficiary. However, a contribution made to an ABLE United account by an employer will still be considered income to the employee, who could be either the Beneficiary or someone else. For example, a contribution by the employer of the Beneficiary's parent continues to constitute earned income to the parent and then a gift by the parent to the Beneficiary.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI):

For the purposes of determining eligibility for SSI benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, the following exceptions apply whereby funds in, or distributions from an ABLE United account, may lead to a suspension of benefits.

1. A distribution for housing expenses will not be disregarded if the funds are not expended in the same month that they are withdrawn from the ABLE United account. Funds withdrawn from an Account and held beyond the month of withdrawal before spending are not considered a countable resource so long as they remain unspent and identifiable.
2. Any amount in an ABLE United **account in excess of \$100,000 will be considered a resource** and may, therefore, cause suspension of SSI benefits while the Account Balance exceeds \$100,000.

MEDICAID:

**Funds in an ABLE United account are disregarded for the purposes of determining Medicaid eligibility**, even if the Account Balance exceeds \$100,000 and/or SSI benefits are suspended due to one of the exceptions outlined above.

MEDICAID RECOVERY:

From July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019, except as required by federal law, the Florida Medicaid program may not file a claim for Medicaid recovery of funds in an ABLE account during this time period. Any remaining funds in an ABLE account must first be distributed for Qualified Disability Expenses then transferred to the estate of the designated beneficiary or an ABLE account of another eligible individual specified by the Beneficiary.....However,..... If the Beneficiary receives Medicaid benefits from a state other than Florida, upon the death of the Beneficiary, that state may request reimbursement for Medicaid benefits paid after establishment of the ABLE United account and after all outstanding Qualified Disability Expenses have been paid. The claim is limited to the total amount of assistance paid by the Medicaid program, less premiums paid by, or on behalf of, the Beneficiary to a Medicaid Buy-In program under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. For this purpose, a state is considered a creditor of the Account and not a beneficiary.