# Thinking About Opening a Maryland ABLE Account?

Visit: www.marylandABLE.org

Email: <a href="mailto:questions@marylandable.org">questions@marylandable.org</a>

**Call Customer Support** 

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Monday through Friday, 9am-8pm EST





Enrolling in the Maryland ABLE program is an important decision for you and your family. Please read the entire Program Disclosure and Participation Agreement carefully before deciding to enroll. The Maryland ABLE Program Disclosure provides investment objectives, risks, expenses and costs, fees, and other information you should consider carefully before investing. If the Beneficiary lives outside of Maryland, you should consider any ABLE program offered by the Beneficiary's home state prior to making a decision to invest in the Maryland ABLE program. Keep in mind that state-based benefits should be one of many appropriately weighted factors to be considered when making an investment decision. Maryland ABLE accounts are not guaranteed by the State of Maryland, any state agency or subdivision thereof, or their authorized agents or affiliates. You could lose money by investing in a Maryland ABLE account. Consider investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing.

### **Achieving A Better Life Experience**





Supporting Financial Freedom and
Greater Quality of Life
for People with Disabilities

#### What Is Maryland ABLE?

It is an investment tool for people with disabilities, designed to help Beneficiaries save for their everyday needs, save and invest in a tax-free account, and prepare for the future without losing federal, or state means tested benefits.

#### Who Can Open an Account?

- A person who experienced the onset of disability or blindness prior to the age of 26; and
- A person who is entitled to receive SSI or SSDI, or has, for the tax year, filed a valid disability certification with the Secretary of the Treasury stating you meet the social security definition of disability;



You, as the beneficiary if you are over age 18.

#### OR

 You're an Authorized Legal Representative (ALR) for someone with a qualifying disability.

An ALR for a person over the age of 18 must provide documentation that confirms that he/she has been designated as the Power of Attorney or Legal Guardian for the beneficiary. If the beneficiary is under the age of 18, the ALR can be the parent.





#### **ABLE Account Holder Benefits**

- Contributions up to \$15,000 \* per year for a wide range of qualified disability expenses.
- Tax free account growth and tax-free withdrawals for qualified disability expenses.
- Access to a Maryland State income tax deduction up to \$2,500 per contributor per beneficiary for Maryland residents contributing to a Maryland ABLE account.
- Save up to \$100,000 in an ABLE account before impacting SSI cash benefits.
- Make contributions up to a maximum account value of \$500,000.
- Rollover funds from a College Savings 529 Account to an ABLE account up to annual contribution limits each year for eligible beneficiaries.
- Transfer money to a pre-loaded card option for easy access to funds.
- Personalize a gifting page via an on line gifting platform and share with friends and family.
- Make contributions to an ABLE account via payroll deductions.

## Examples of Qualified Disability Expenses\*

#### **Basic Living Expenses**

• Gas, electric, water

#### **Health and Wellness**

 Medical bills, medication, exercise services and medical equipment

#### Housing

• Mortgage, property taxes, and rent

#### **Education and Training**

 Textbooks, tuition, certification programs, and trade schools

#### **Employment**

 Work related expenses, license and certification fees, and job coaching

#### **Transportation**

 Buses, metro, subway, taxi, Uber, Lyft, trains and planes

#### Financial Management and Legal fees

 Tax preparation, legal and court fees, and financial advisor services

#### **Assistive Technology**

 Hearing aids, computers, screen readers, and iDevices

#### **Burial Fees and Expenses**

 Pre-planning fees, pre-paid cemetery plots, and funeral and burial expenses

**Remember**: ABLE account holders are advised to maintain copies of receipts for all purchases and fees when using money from their ABLE accounts.

\*This list provides **examples** of possible disability related expenses.

#### **Opening a Maryland ABLE Account**

It only takes an initial deposit of \$25 to open an account! Once you are ready to enroll, you can set up your account online. When opening a Maryland ABLE account, be sure to have the Beneficiary's (and ALR, if applicable) Social Security Number and bank account information to link to the account. If you are an ALR, a copy of the paperwork confirming your legal designation will need to also be submitted for review.

#### **Account Fees**

There is a low annual fee of \$35 for each Maryland ABLE account to keep everything running smoothly.

There are also low fees on the underlying mutual funds, which are a part of each of the investment options. These add up to between 0.30% and 0.38% of the account's balance per year.



#### **Maryland ABLE Portfolio Options**

- Cash Option FDIC-insured banking product similar to a savings account (accessed online transfer to a linked bank account or with a prepaid card)
- **Investment Option** 3 Investment options (conservative, moderate, aggressive)
- Account owners can choose:
  - ♦ 100% Cash Option
  - ♦ 100% Into one of the Investment Options

OR

X % in the cash and Y % in one of the investment options

<sup>\*</sup> Additional contributions may be made by Beneficiaries who work. See our website at www.MarylandABLE.org for additional information.