



Attainable: The ABLE Savings Plan

Offered by MEFA and managed by Fidelity Investments

Your Presenter Today

Mary Rubenis

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Mary coordinates educational outreach, strategic partnership- building, and marketing strategy to spread awareness of ABLÉ accounts and their benefits.

She is passionate about helping families and individuals with disabilities and gives educational trainings on the Attainable Savings Plan to local and national organizations.



About MEFA

Not-for-profit state authority created in 1982 helping families plan, save, and pay for college



MEFA and Fidelity Partnership

The Attainable Savings Plan was launched in 2017. MEFA is the state sponsor and Fidelity Investments is the program manager. MEFA began its partnership with Fidelity in 1999 when it selected Fidelity to serve as the program manager of the U.Fund 529 College Investing Plan. Together MEFA and Fidelity offer expertise in college financing and money management.



What Is the ABLE Act?

The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act amended the federal tax code in 2014 to add Section 529A. This legislation established ABLE accounts, tax-exempt accounts for eligible individuals with disabilities to be used for qualified disability expenses while still keeping eligibility for federal public benefits.



Who is Eligible for an ABLE Account?

Individuals are eligible if the applicable disability occurred before the individual turned 26 years old and:

- Is eligible to receive SSI or SSDI due to the disability

OR

- Has a condition listed on the Social Security Administration's *List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions*

OR

- Self certifies, which requires a diagnosis of physical or mental impairment that causes “marked and severe functional limitations,” such as conditions in the Social Security Administration’s Blue Book and that have lasted or are expected to last for at least one year.



Qualified Expenses for ABLE Accounts



Health



Housing



Education



Transportation



Assistive Technology Support



Employment Training & Support



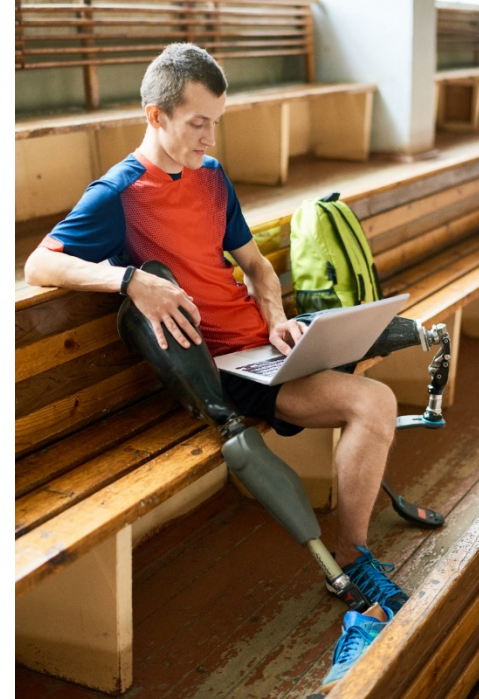
Personal Support Services



Basic Living Needs

Benefits of an Attainable Account

- Allows the account owner or Beneficiary the ability to save over \$2,000 without affecting federal benefits
- Permits the account to be owned by the individual with the disability
- Anyone can contribute to an Attainable account including family & friends
- Immediate access to funds
- Provides individuals with disabilities:
 - Financial independence
 - Multiple tax benefits



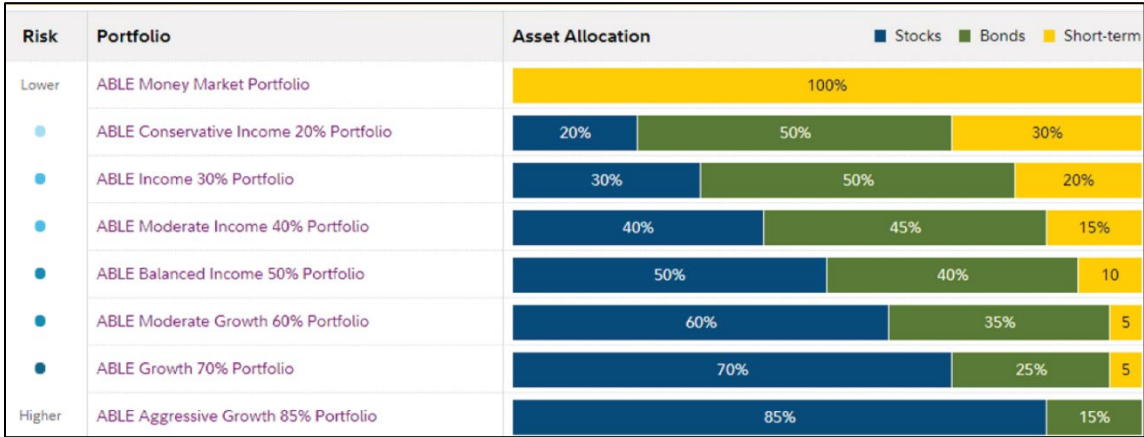
Attainable Account Specifics

- Total annual contribution can not exceed \$15,000
 - If employed, the Beneficiary may add up to \$12,760 more each year from earnings, so the annual contribution increases to \$27,760 (for 2021)
- Maximum account balance can not exceed \$500,000
- SSI is not suspended until account exceeds \$100,000
- No annual account fee



Asset Allocation for Attainable Portfolios

Attainable portfolios that are more conservative (and tend to have lower risk) are at the top of the chart, and more aggressive portfolios that have greater risk but the potential for higher returns are toward the bottom of the chart.



Units of the portfolios are municipal fund securities and are subject to market fluctuation and volatility. Gain or loss may occur when units are sold.

Get more information on [Fidelity's website](#)

Attainable Portfolio Fees

No annual account maintenance fee

Investment fees vary based on your investment portfolio.

Fees range from 0.57% of assets to 0.94% of assets.



2021 Tax Benefits

ABLE Financial Planning Act

Provided that the beneficiary is the same individual on both accounts (or one beneficiary is a family member of the other), it is now allowable to transfer funds from a 529 college savings plan into an ABLE account without incurring any tax or penalty.

Saver's Credit

ABLE account owners who meet certain criteria can receive a [Saver's Credit](#) on their federal taxes for contributions into an ABLE account. Individuals are eligible if they are age 18 or older, not a full-time student, and not claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return.

As long as withdrawals are spent on QDEs, Attainable account growth is federal income tax free

Brian Guay



Additional Resources - Websites

Able National Resource Center: ablenrc.org

MEFA: mefa.org

Attainable Savings Plan: fidelity.com/able

Visit mefa.org/able-registration-form to sign up for updates and information about Attainable



Stay in Touch



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