

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor



RICHARD WHITLEY, MS
Director

EDWARD ABLESER, Ph.D.
Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132
Carson City, NV, 89706
Telephone (775) 687-4210 • Fax (775) 687-0574
<http://adsd.nv.gov>

Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act Adopted by Nevada

Carson City, NV— The Aging and Disabilities Division (ADSD) of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services today announced that Nevada has adopted the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act recently passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Obama. Nevada adopted this into law during the 2015 Legislature through SB 419.

“We are extremely pleased that the ABLE Act is now law,” said Edward Ableser, ADSD Administrator. “Nevada families, who are assisting their loved ones with disabilities, will have the opportunity to save for related financial expenses with no penalties from other income sources. This is a huge step in helping bring independence to those who may otherwise be limited.”



The ABLE Act allows people with disabilities and their families to set up a special savings account for related expenses such as education, housing, transportation, employment, health care and purchasing assistive technology and personal support services, health, prevention and wellness, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, expenses for oversight and monitoring, funeral and burial expenses. Earnings on an ABLE account would not be taxed, and account funds would generally not be considered for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, Medicaid, and other federal means-tested benefits.

Without these accounts, many people with disabilities have limited avenues to save and achieve further independence. Any person, such as a family member, friend, account owner, may contribute to an ABLE account for an eligible beneficiary.

*Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
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Individuals eligible for the program are: (1) those who are entitled to benefits on the basis of disability or blindness under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or under the Social Security disability, retirement, and survivors program OR (2) those who submit certification that meets the criteria for a disability certification as defined by the SSI program. An eligible individual's disability must have occurred before the age 26. The eligible individual who establishes an ABLE account and is the owner of the account is the "designated beneficiary."

For more information regarding the ABLE Act, please link to:

https://www.mda.org/sites/default/files/ABLE_Act_FAQs_113th_Congress.pdf

For additional information on ADSD, please link to:

<http://adsd.nv.gov>

ABLE National Resource Center Publishes Report on Accomplishments and Outcomes

The ABLE National Resource Center published accomplishments and outcomes report to celebrate the second anniversary of the signing of the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. The [ABLE National Resource Center \(ANRC\)](#) is a collaborative whose supporters share the goal of accelerating the design and availability of ABLE accounts for the benefit of individuals with disabilities and their families.

According to the report, "ABLE represents the most transformative policy change since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. This is the first time Congress recognized that families raising a child with a disability and working-age adults with disabilities have additional significant costs associated with living with a disability. The law amends the tax code to encourage contributions to an ABLE savings account that allow investments to grow tax free."

The report states that the Center will continue to focus on five areas of collective impact:

1. Serve as a facilitator between the disability sector, government and financial service companies to accelerate the effective design and availability of ABLE accounts nationwide.
2. Educate the disability community about the available opportunities to save and plan for a better economic future and quality of life experience through the establishment of ABLE accounts.
3. Educate government at the federal and state levels about consumer needs and challenges in establishing and/or managing an ABLE account.
4. Inform financial service companies about the needs and interests of the disability community to offer investment products for use with ABLE account resources.
5. Educate the public, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders about the positive impact of ABLE accounts at an individual and systems level and any needed changes for further policy development.

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As indicated in the report, “In 2017, as more states open ABLE programs, the ANRC will continue to provide individuals with disabilities, their families and other related stakeholders with information resources, education, training and other knowledge translation strategies, online and in person, that encourage and support investment in ABLE accounts.”

FMI Read the report here: [ABLE Accomplishments and Outcomes Report](#).