



**NC ABLÉ PROGRAM**  
**Account Eligibility, Features & Benefits**



**NC ABLE Highlights**

**Eligibility**

**Opening an Account**

**Contributions and Limits**

**Investments**

**Spending Funds**

**Fees**

**Resources**

# Agenda



# NC ABLE Program Highlights

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NC ABLE PROGRAM

# NC ABLE allows people living with disabilities to save and invest their money.

- Preservation of Public Benefits
- Tax-Advantage Growth
- Easy Set Up
- High Contribution Limit
- Asset Protection
- Broad Qualified Disability Expenses
- Flexibility and Control

You do NOT have to be on public benefits to open an ABLE account.



# Supplemental Security Income



The first **\$100,000 saved** is excluded from SSI's resource calculation.



Account balances are **reported monthly** to the Social Security Administration (SSA) .



**Save more than \$100,000 without impacting eligibility for these benefits**



Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP)



Financial Application for Federal Student Aid





# Eligibility

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# 1 Requirement—Age of Disability Onset

Disability must be present before the age of 46



# 2 Requirement—One of the Following



Diagnosis from a physician

or



Eligible for SSI or SSDI

or



SSA's Compassionate Allowances List

Take our eligibility quiz to see you are eligible. [NCABLE.nc.gov/getting-started-nc-able/eligibility](https://ncable.nc.gov/getting-started-nc-able/eligibility)



# Opening an Account

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# Eligible Individual is under age 18

A parent or individual  
with financial authority  
may open an account  
on behalf of the  
eligible individual.

# Eligible Individual is **18 years or older**

## **With Legal Capacity**

- Can open their own account
- Grant someone authority to open Account on their behalf

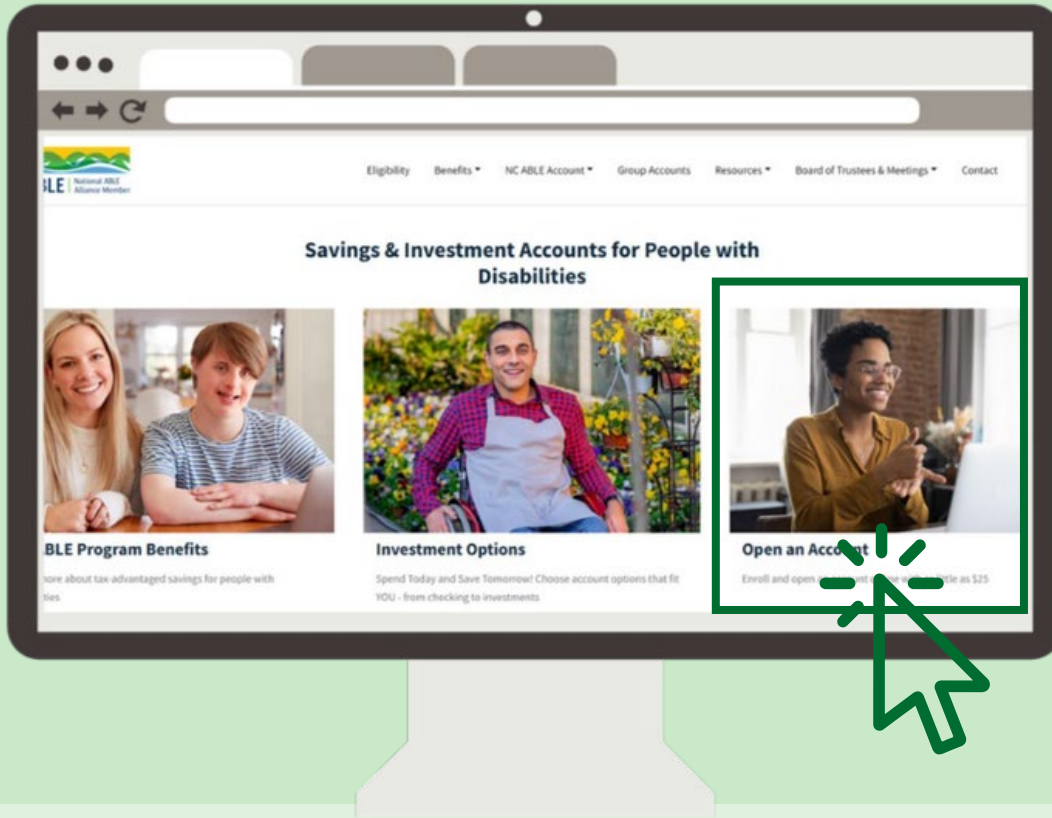


## **Without Legal Capacity**

*the following can open an account (in order of priority)*

- Agent under a power of attorney
- Guardian of the estate /  
General guardian / Conservator
- Spouse
- Parent
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- SSA-appointed  
representative payee

Enroll online at NCABLE.org

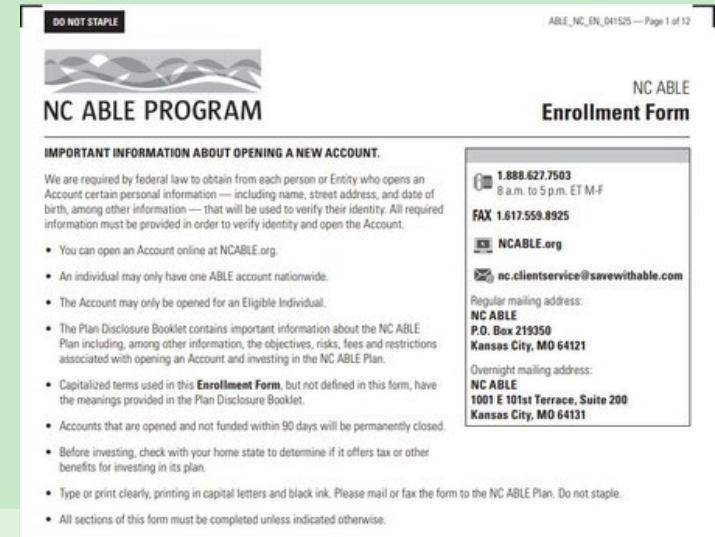


## Enrollment Forms



NC ABLE Enrollment Form (pdf)

Use this Enrollment form to open an account.



Need assistance? (888) 627-7503

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm ET

Paper enrollment form available to print or mail.



# Opening an Account

# Account Support



## Interested Party

The person who qualifies for an ABLE account can get help from an **Interested Party**.

An **Interested Party** can access information about the account, but they can not do things like move money within the account.



## Authorized Individual

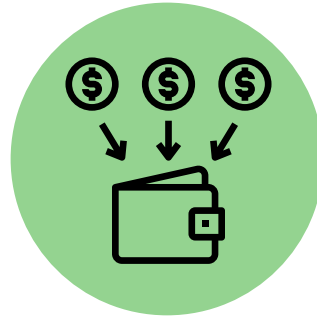
An Authorized Individual is a person who can assist the ABLE account owner or they can manage and transact on the account on behalf of the Account Owner.

# Documentation for Authorized Individuals

Authorized Individual	Documentation Required
Parent	Birth Certificate
Sibling	NC ABLE Affidavit
Spouse	Marriage Certificate
Legal Guardian/Conservator	Court Appointment Document <i>(Guardian of the Estate, General Guardian or Conservator)</i>
Grandparent	NC ABLE Affidavit
SSA-Appointed Rep Payee	SSA Letter
Agent under Power of Attorney	Power of Attorney



## Opening an Account



# Contributions and Limits

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Account Owner



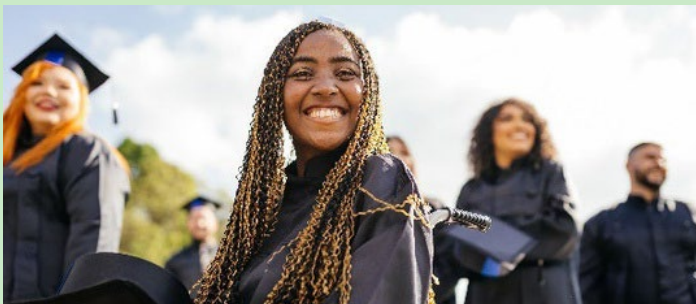
**\$20,000 per year**  
contribution & rollover limit



Family, Friends, Employers



**Up to \$100,000**  
is excluded from the calculation of  
the resource limit for SSI



529 Plan Rollovers





**Maximum account balance**  
**\$550,000 in North Carolina**  
*varies by state (from \$300,000 to \$500,000+)*

# ABLE to Work

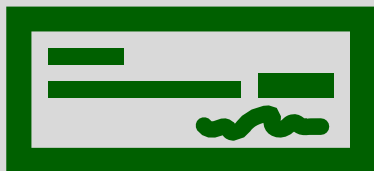


**\$20,000 per year**  
contribution & rollover limit

**Contribution limit may increase** by the lesser of:

-  the amount of the account owner's earned income
-  the one-person poverty level for the prior year (\$15,650)

# Contribution Methods



Check



Payroll, SSI Deposits



Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)



Ugiftable.com

Every NC ABLE account Owner is given a unique Ugift<sup>®</sup> code which allow family and friends to make secure contributions to the account.



# Investments

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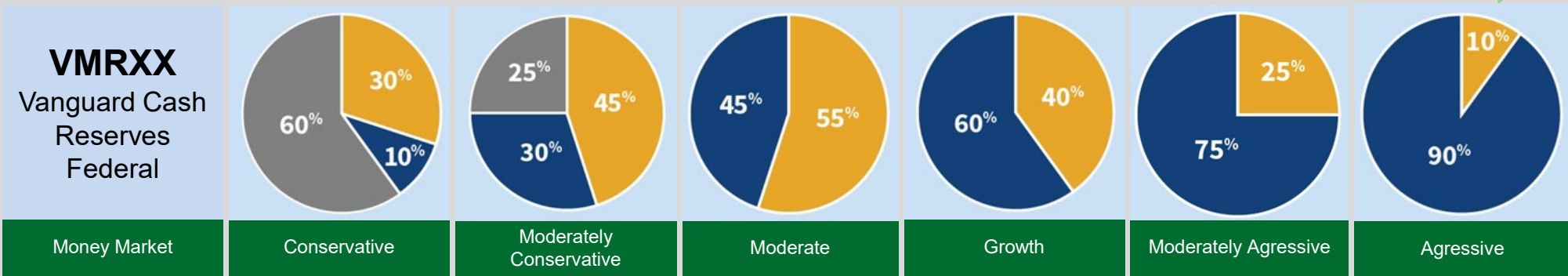
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- Interest bearing
- FDIC insurance up to \$250,000
- Debit card with no card issuance fees
- Check writing
- ATM Access
- No overdraft fees

## Checking Account Option

### Reward potential



### Risk potential

■ Stocks ■ Bonds ■ Cash



# Spending Funds

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# Qualified Disability Expenses (QDEs)

The ABLE Act allows account owners to withdraw their money, tax-free, when it is used for a **Qualifying Disability Expense (QDE)**.

A QDE is any expense related to the account owner's disability that can be used for the benefit of the account owner in maintaining or improving their health, independence or quality of life, such as:



## Education

such as tuition, special education services  
including tutors



## Health

including prevention and wellness



## Housing

such as food, mortgage, rent, taxes and  
utilities



## Transportation

such as public or customized, accessible  
vehicles



## Legal

such as legal fees



## Financial

including management and administrative  
services



## Technology

assistive technology and related services,  
including cellphones



## Funeral Expenses

funeral and burial expenses

# Qualified Disability Expenses (QDEs)



Qualified Disability Expenses (QDEs) are defined by Federal law.

There is no comprehensive list of goods and services that are always QDEs.

NC ABLE *does not* make the determination on what is a QDE.

Other agencies are responsible for determining whether a purchase is a QDE:

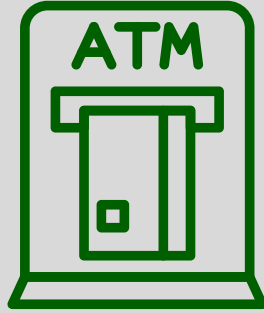


# Recordkeeping

- Review your NC ABLE account online at least monthly
- Keep your receipts
- Check your receipts against the withdrawals from your account
- Keep your tax forms 5498A (for contributions) and 1099A (for withdrawals)



# Withdrawals



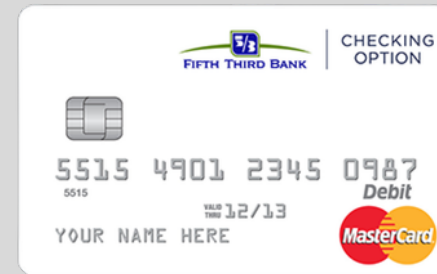
ATM



Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF)



Check



Debit Card



# Fees

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### Account Maintenance Fee

\$31.00 / Year (\$56 for paper stmts)

### Investment Accounts Range .28 - .34%

(i.e., \$2.80 – \$3.40 per \$1,000/ year)

### Checking Account Fee

\$2 per month

- average daily account balance is \$250 or more **OR**
- if electronic delivery of statements is elected

**Checking Fee = \$0**





# ABLE & Special Needs Trusts

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# Considerations


## ABLE Account


- ✔ Protects federal assistance
- ✔ Smaller amounts  
(\$20k annual limit)
- ✔ Account control  
Beneficiary/Authorized Individual
- ✔ Ideal for living expenses  
(housing, food, etc)
- ✔ Less expensive to establish

## Special Needs Trust

- ✔ Protects federal assistance
- ✔ Best for large amounts  
(inheritance)
- ✔ Account control  
Trustee controls account  
providing protective oversight
- ✔ More expensive to establish

 Can be used in conjunction with a Special Needs Trusts (SNTs)

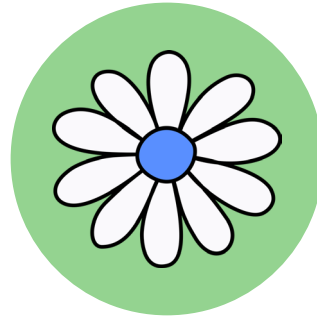
 Choice depends upon the beneficiary's specific needs and financial goals

 Encourage meeting with a SNT attorney for further information

NC ABLE webinars and videos are available at [NCABLE.org](https://www.ncable.org)



# ABLE & SNTs



# Death of an Account Owner



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Funds in an ABLE account go to:

-  Final Qualified Disability Expenses
-  Account Owner's Estate or Successor Account Owner if applicable

NC ABLE accounts are protected against Medicaid recovery. (N.C.G.S § 147-86.73(e)) except where specifically required by Federal law.

Which may include:

- *NC Medicaid recipient received inpatient nursing facility care and cannot be expected to return home.*
- *The NC Medicaid recipient is 55 years or older and received nursing facility services or home and community-based services, hospital care or prescription drugs*



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# Resources

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## Savings & Investment Accounts for People with Disabilities



### NC ABLE Program Benefits

Learn more about tax-advantaged savings for people with disabilities



### Investment Options

Spend Today and Save Tomorrow! Choose account options that fit YOU - from checking to investments



### Open an Account

Enroll and open an account online with as little as \$25

[NCABLE.org](https://www.ncable.org)

888-627-7503



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@NCABLEProgram



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**ABLE** NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

[ABLENRC.org](https://www.ablenrc.org)

202-683-6094



# Thank you.

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