

Overview

Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, passed by Congress in 2014, allows for states to establish tax-advantaged savings vehicles to assist persons with blindness or disability save for the future without putting their federal means-tested benefits at risk.

The Illinois State Treasurer is the administrator of Illinois' 529A program, called Illinois ABLE, which is a partnership with 13 other states to provide the most robust ABLE services at the lowest cost to beneficiaries. This multi-state partnership is called the National ABLE Alliance and represents roughly one quarter of the US disability population.

The program is flexible to users who wish to invest or simply to save their money free from putting their federal benefits in danger, with six simple-to-use investment options and one banking product.

Program Features

- > Six Easy-To-Use Investment Option
- > Banking Option with Free Debit Card
- > No Fees at 45,000 ATMs
- > Third Party Reviewed Website
- > No Overdraft Fees

Approved Expenses for ABLE Include:

- > Education
- > Housing
- > Transportation
- > Employment training & support
- > Assistive technology
- > Personal support services
- > General health services
- > Prevention and wellness services
- > Financial management & administrative services
- > Legal fees
- > Expenses for oversight & monitoring
- > Funeral & burial expenses.

Common Questions

Who qualifies for ABLE funds?

Individual beneficiaries must be disabled (defined as being entitled to benefits based on blindness or disability under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, or have a "disability certification" filed with the Treasury Secretary) AND must have been disabled before age 26 in order to receive benefits under the program.

How much can I contribute to my account?

Up to \$14,000 per year. No further contributions may be made until the start of the next calendar year.

Do I have to prove that withdrawals are for qualified disability expenses?

Not at the time of the withdrawal. Annually, Illinois ABLE will report the total amount of your withdrawals to the IRS and the date and amount of each of your withdrawals to the Social Security Administration.

