



**MONTANA ABLE**  
National ABLE Alliance Member



To all your abilities, now add the ability to save.

To all of your abilities, now add the ability to save. The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2014 allows individuals with disabilities and their families to save for many daily, disability-related expenses on a *tax-deferred* basis – without limiting their ability to benefit from supplemental security income (SSI), Medicaid and other federal programs.



## A message from the Department of Public Health and Human Services:

“I am pleased to provide Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts for Montanans with disabilities. My thanks to the Montana Legislature, and the ABLE Oversight Committee for their work helping make these accounts available.”

– Shelia Hogan, Director

# Making saving easier helps make life better.

ABLE savings may grow and be withdrawn tax-free, provided that savings are used for qualified, disability-related expenses.

## Plan highlights

### Special tax advantages

- Earnings on your investments are federally tax-deferred, maximizing your return.
- Withdrawals are federally tax-free, if used for qualified disability expenses.<sup>1</sup>

### No impact on current benefits

- Balances of \$100,000 or less are excluded from the SSI resource limit; only the amount OVER \$100,000 is counted against your SSI resource limit, whether alone or in combination with other resources.
- If you exceed your SSI resource limit, your SSI benefits will be suspended until the ABLE account balance no longer exceeds your resource limit.<sup>2</sup>
- You'll continue to be eligible for Medicaid, regardless of your account balance.<sup>3</sup>

### User-friendly

- Open an account online with as little as \$25.
- Access your account by phone or online 24/7 from a PC, tablet or mobile device.
- Select the checking option to easily access your funds via a debit card.
- Anyone can contribute to your account. With the easy-to-use Ugift® feature, friends, family - and even members of the public - can give meaningful gifts too!

### High maximums

Contribute up to \$15,000 per year. Account balance limit: \$396,000.

### Low fees

The annualized investment costs on assets per investment option range from 0.34% to 0.37%, depending on which investment option(s) you select. The account is charged an account maintenance fee of \$15 per quarter. This fee can be discounted by \$3.75 per quarter if you select email delivery for statements and confirmations.

If you are invested in the checking option, an additional monthly service charge of \$2 will be applied to your account. This fee is waived if your account has an average daily balance over \$250 or if you select electronic statement delivery with Fifth Third Bank.

<sup>1</sup>Earnings on non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as applicable state and local income taxes.

<sup>2</sup>Please see the Plan Disclosure Documents for complete details on SSI suspension and any requirements on when you use the funds to prevent suspension of benefits.

<sup>3</sup>Upon the death of the account owner, the state Medicaid agency shall be a creditor for the total medical assistance paid under the State's Medicaid program on behalf of the account owner after the establishment of the account, upon filing of a claim for payment by such state.





## Who's eligible?

You can open the account for yourself, or an authorized individual can open one on your behalf, if:

- Your disability was present before the age of 26; and
- One of the following is true:
  - You experience blindness as determined by the Social Security Act; or
  - You are entitled to receive Social Security disability benefits (SSI or SSDI) or have a similarly severe disability and possess a written diagnosis from a licensed physician.

*(To open an account you must certify that you have a physical or mental disability that can be expected to last for at least a year or can cause death; or you are blind; or your disability is included on the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions; and such blindness or disability occurred before age 26.)*

### What are Qualified Disability Expenses?

These are any expenses that (1) are incurred at a time when the Account Owner is an Eligible Individual, (2) relate to the blindness or disability of the Account Owner, and (3) are for the benefit of the Account Owner in maintaining or improving his or her health, independence or quality of life. Qualified expenses include, but are not limited to:

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Education            | • Employment training and support |
| • Health and wellness  | • Assistive technology            |
| • Housing              | • Personal support services       |
| • Transportation       | • Oversight and monitoring        |
| • Legal fees           | • Funeral and burial expenses     |
| • Financial management | • Basic living expenses           |

*(When savings are used for non-qualified expenses, the earnings portion of the withdrawal will be treated as income, so it will be taxed at the account owner's tax rate, and will be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty and applicable state taxes.)*

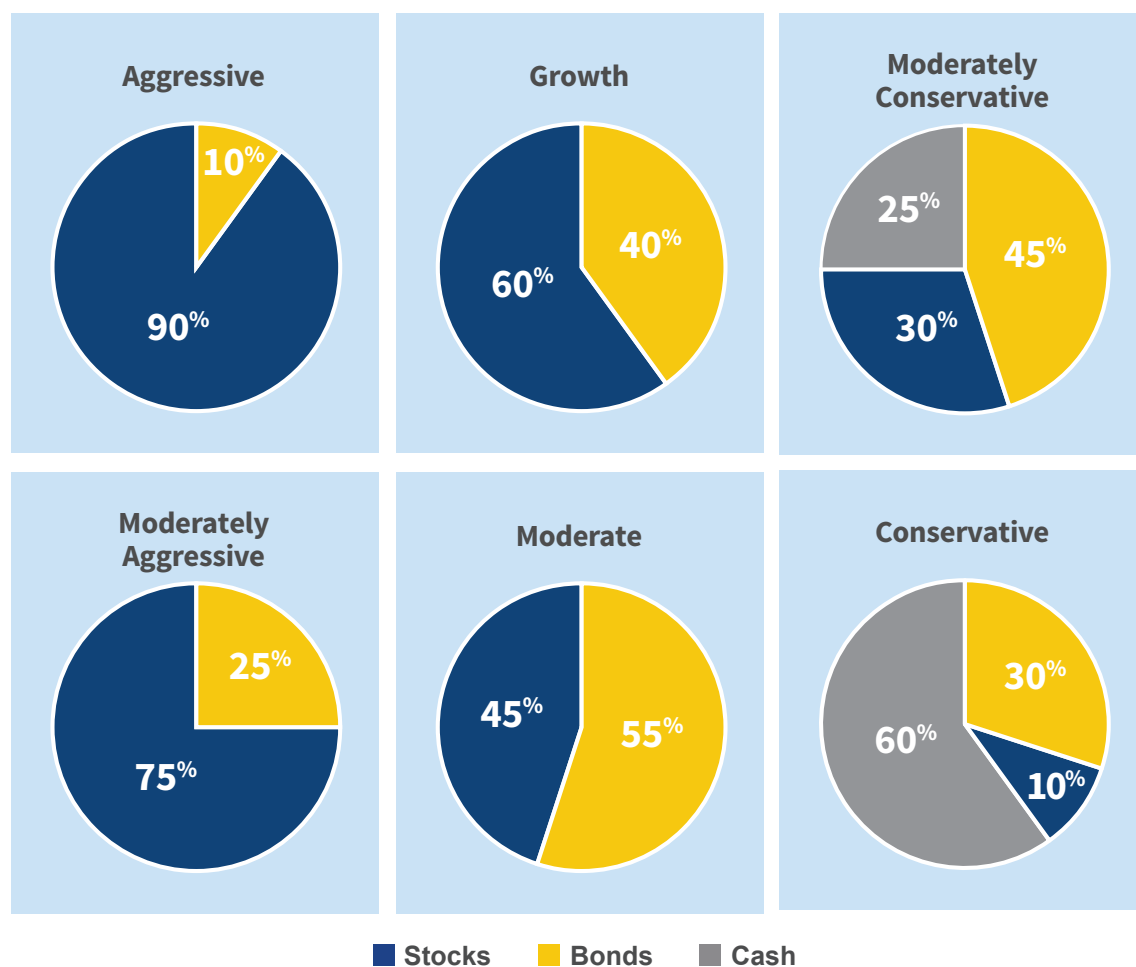
# Investment options to fit your needs.

The Montana ABLE Program offers a range of investment options to match both your goals and comfort with risk.

The Montana ABLE Program offers investment options that meet your needs - based on your unique plans and risk tolerance. Visit [mt.savewithable.com](http://mt.savewithable.com) to learn more about the options available.

You can also contribute to an FDIC-insured checking account (through Fifth Third Bank) that lets you withdraw money using a debit card or by writing a check. This allows you to easily use your funds for everyday expenses related to your disability.

## Portfolio Options



Accounts in the Member Plan are not guaranteed or insured by the Member State, the Member State Administrator, the Trust, the Administrator, the Member Plan or the Program Manager. You could lose money by investing in the Member Plan. The checking option is FDIC insured.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do I have to prove eligibility?**

No. To open an account, you must certify that you have a physical or mental disability that can be expected to last for at least a year or can cause death; or you are blind; or your disability is included on the Social Security Administration's List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions; and such blindness or disability occurred before age 26. You should have a record of the doctor's signed diagnosis, a benefits verification letter from the Social Security Administration or other relevant documentation for account verification, as needed.

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

Not at the time of the withdrawal. Annually, the Montana ABLE Program 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. In the event that either entity wants to verify the expenses, it's recommended that you keep detailed records.

## **Can I have more than one Montana ABLE Program account?**

No. You're limited to one ABLE account, except in the case of a rollover from another qualified ABLE program. This extends beyond the Montana ABLE Program to include accounts in other ABLE programs.

In the case of a rollover to an ABLE account for the same account owner, the account from which the funds are withdrawn must be closed within 60 days of the withdrawal.

## **Can friends and family make contributions into my account?**

Absolutely. Anyone can contribute directly to your Montana ABLE Program account. No matter who contributes, you, the account owner or authorized individual, retain control over the account. With the easy-to-use Ugift feature, anyone can contribute to your account.

## **How often can I change my investments?**

Twice per calendar year. You can change your investment options for any NEW contributions at any time.





# Get started with just a few clicks.

It only takes a few minutes to open a Montana ABLE Program account:

- Read the Plan Disclosure Documents for important details.
- Enroll at [mt.savewithable.com](https://mt.savewithable.com)

## **We're here to help.**

**Call us:** 1-888-609-3461, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm MT

**Email us:** [mt.clientservice@savewithable.com](mailto:mt.clientservice@savewithable.com)

## **Contact us by mail:**

Montana ABLE Program  
P.O. Box 219234  
Kansas City, MO 64121-9781

## **Overnight Delivery:**

Montana ABLE Program  
920 Main Street  
Suite 900  
Kansas City, MO 64105



For more information about the Montana ABLE Program (the “Member Plan”), call 1-888-609-3461, or visit [mt.savewithable.com](http://mt.savewithable.com) to obtain Plan Disclosure Documents, which include investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information; read and consider it carefully before investing.

Investors should consider before investing whether their home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state’s qualified ABLE program. Investors should consult their legal, tax advisor and/or other advisor regarding their specific legal, investment or tax situation.

The Member Plan is sponsored by the state of Montana and administered by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The Member Plan is one of the qualified ABLE plans issued by the ABLE Consortium Trust. Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC, the Program Manager, and its affiliates have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including investment advisory, recordkeeping and administrative services. The Member Plan offers a series of investment options within the ABLE Consortium Trust. The Member Plan is intended to operate as a qualified ABLE plan to be used only to save for Qualified Disability Expenses, pursuant to the Section 529A of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

Investment returns will vary depending upon the performance of the Investment Options you choose. You could lose all or a portion of your money by investing in the Member Plan depending on market conditions. Account Owners assume all investment risks as well as responsibility for any federal and state tax consequences.

This material is provided for general and educational purposes only, and is not intended to provide legal, tax or investment advice, or for use to avoid penalties that may be imposed under federal or state tax laws. This material is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. Participation in the Member Plan does not guarantee that contributions and the investment return on contributions, if any, will be adequate to cover future expenses or that an account owner is eligible to participate in the Member Plan.

**Investments are not FDIC-insured (except for the Checking Option). No bank, state or federal guarantee. Investments may lose value.**

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The National ABLE Alliance is a partnership of States focused on offering people with disabilities an ABLE investment product with low-cost financial options.