



Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Yesterday the Governor signed SB 668, which directs the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to find the best ABLE account option for Wisconsin residents, either by joining a collaboration of states operating a ABLE program or establishing a Wisconsin program.

ABLE accounts are tax exempt savings accounts can be used to pay qualified expenses, including education, housing and transportation costs without impacting eligibility for Medicaid, Social Security, and other public benefit programs that have income and asset requirements.

Many programs that people with disabilities rely on to live independently—including Family Care, IRIS, Foodshare, and federal Housing subsidies—have strict income and asset limits that make it impossible to save for rent deposits, down payments on vehicles or homes, and other routine expenses. ABLE accounts allow people with disabilities to work, earn, and save more without losing access to in-home supports and other needed services.

In December 2022, Congress expanded who can set up an ABLE account to people who acquire a disability by age 46 (the previous age limit was 26), making this an important tool for many more Wisconsinites.

“This new law will finally move Wisconsin forward,” said Beth Swedeen, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. “It will make it easier for Wisconsin families and people with disabilities to understand their options and set up ABLE accounts.”

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