

Join *Attainable Program Manager* Mary Rubenis for a webinar focused on **A Sibling's Perspective on Financial Planning with ABLÉ Accounts** with special guest Alexandria Nadworny, CFP



Wednesday, August 5 @ 6:00 PM ET

**attainable**<sup>SM</sup>

The ABLÉ Savings Plan offered by MEFA  
and managed by Fidelity

*mefa*<sup>®</sup>

# Attainable: The ABLE Savings Plan

Offered by MEFA and Managed by Fidelity Investments

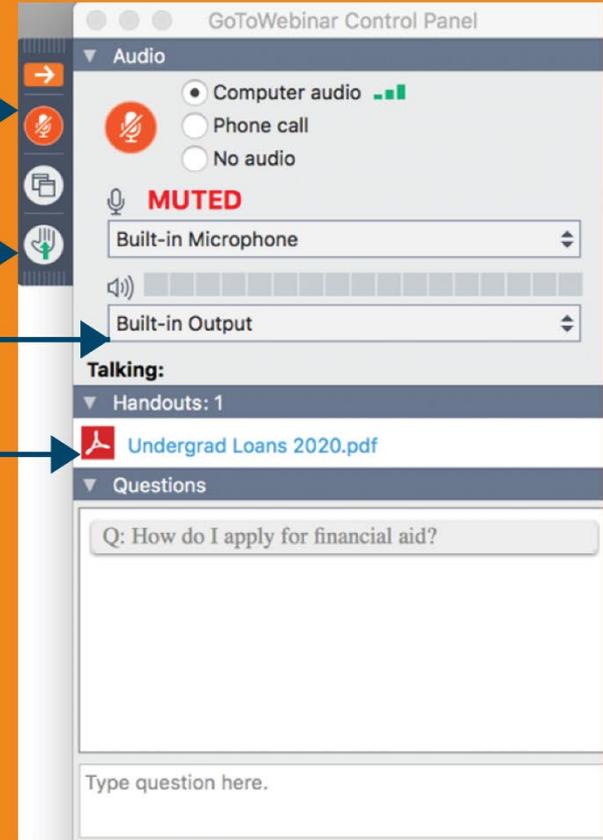
# How to Participate in This Webinar

The microphone icon lets you know if you can be heard. The presenter may mute everyone during the webinar

The hand icon may be used if the presenter wants to take a vote

Check the quality of your sound here

If the presenter provides handouts for the webinar, you will find them here



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## About MEFA



Not-for-profit state authority created in 1982  
helping families plan, save, and pay for college

The Attainable Savings plan was launched in 2017. MEFA is the state sponsor and Fidelity Investments is the program manager.

MEFA began its partnership with Fidelity in 1999 when it selected Fidelity to serve as the program manager of the U.Fund 529 College Investing Plan. Together MEFA and Fidelity offer expertise in college financing and money management.

## MEFA And Fidelity Partnership



A young child with glasses is being held by an adult. The child is looking off to the side. The image has a blue and orange color overlay.

## What is the ABLE ACT?

The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act amended the federal tax code in 2014 to add Section 529A. This legislation established ABLE accounts, tax-exempt accounts for eligible individuals with disabilities to be used for qualified disability expenses while still keeping eligibility for federal public benefits.

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair smiling broadly while holding a young girl with long brown hair. They are outdoors in a park-like setting with trees and a yellow bench in the background. The image is overlaid with a dark teal gradient on the right side.

## ABLE's Journey

ABLE is one of the most significant pieces of disability legislation since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed 30 years ago. 85% of the entire U.S. Congress supported the ABLE Act.

# Who is Eligible for an Attainable Account?



Individuals are eligible if the applicable disability occurred before the individual turned 26 years old and the individual:

- Is eligible to receive SSI or SSDI due to the disability

OR

- Has a condition listed on the Social Security Administration's *List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions*

OR

- Self certifies, which requires a diagnosis of a physical or mental impairment that causes "marked and severe functional limitations," such as conditions in the Social Security Administration's Blue Book and that have lasted or are expected to last for at least 1 year

# Qualified Expenses for Attainable Accounts



Health



Housing



Education



Transportation



Assistive Technology Support



Employment Training & Support



Personal Support Services



Basic Living Needs



# Benefits of an ABLÉ Account

- Allows the account owner or Beneficiary the ability to save over \$2,000 without affecting federal benefits
- Permits the account to be owned by the individual with the disability
- Provides individuals with disabilities:
  - Financial independence
  - New investment opportunities
  - Multiple tax benefits

# Attainable Account Features

- **\$15,000 per year contribution cap for 2020**
- **SSI is protected for accounts up to \$100,000**
- **Maximum account balance can not exceed \$400,000**



# 2020 Tax Updates

## ABLE Financial Planning Act

Provided that the beneficiary is the same individual on both accounts (or one beneficiary is a family member of the other), it is now allowable to transfer funds from a 529 college savings plan into an ABLE account without incurring any tax or penalty.

## ABLE To Work Act

The ABLE to Work legislation specifies that ABLE account beneficiaries who work and earn income may now contribute over the annual limit of \$15,000 into their ABLE account.

## ABLE on the FAFSA

You do not have to list the funds in an ABLE account on the FAFSA. The FAFSA specifically excludes ABLE accounts in the asset section.

# Additional Resources

**ABLE National Resource Center:** [ablenrc.org](http://ablenrc.org)

**MEFA:** [mefa.org](http://mefa.org)

**Attainable Savings Plan:** [fidelity.com/able](http://fidelity.com/able)

Visit [mefa.org/able-registration-form](http://mefa.org/able-registration-form) to sign up  
for updates and information about Attainable

# Additional Resources



Social Security

SEARCH MENU

## Program Operations Manual System (POMS)

Effective Dates: 04/16/2020 - Present

SI 01130.740 Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts

**Citations:** Public Law 113–295 The Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act) -

# Additional Resources

National Disability Institute (NDI), which manages the ABLE National Resource Center (ABLE NRC), has launched a new set of resources to help people with disabilities and chronic health conditions respond to the financial challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Financial Resilience Center helps users manage their finances. The Association for Financial Counseling, Planning, and Education® (AFCPE) offers virtual financial counseling and coaching, and LifeCents will provide access to online financial wellness training. These resources and assistance are offered free of charge.  
[nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/financial-resilience-center/](https://nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/financial-resilience-center/)

# Stay in Touch



Mary Rubenis at [mrubenis@mefa.org](mailto:mrubenis@mefa.org)



[facebook.com/mefaMA](https://facebook.com/mefaMA)



[@MEFAtweets](https://twitter.com/MEFAtweets)



[linkedin.com/company/mefa](https://linkedin.com/company/mefa)



[youtube.com/MEFAcounselor](https://youtube.com/MEFAcounselor)

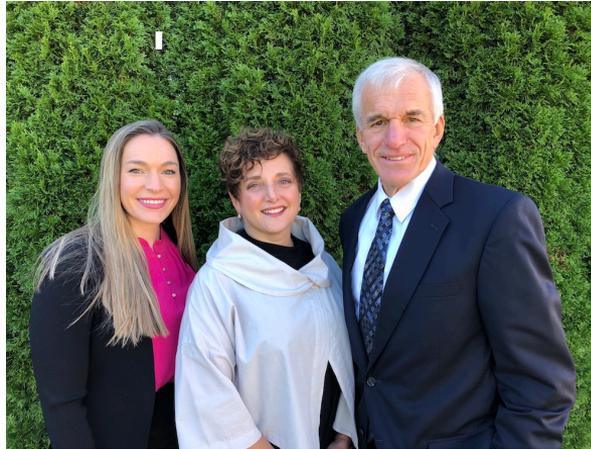
# Siblings Perspective: ABLE Account

## The Special Needs Financial Planning Team Affinia Financial Group

John Nadworny, CFP®, CTFA | Cynthia Haddad, CFP® | Alexandria Nadworny, CFP®,CTFA  
[www.specialneedsplanning.com](http://www.specialneedsplanning.com)

# Introducing Our Team

The *Special Needs Financial Planning* Team  
at Affinia Financial Group



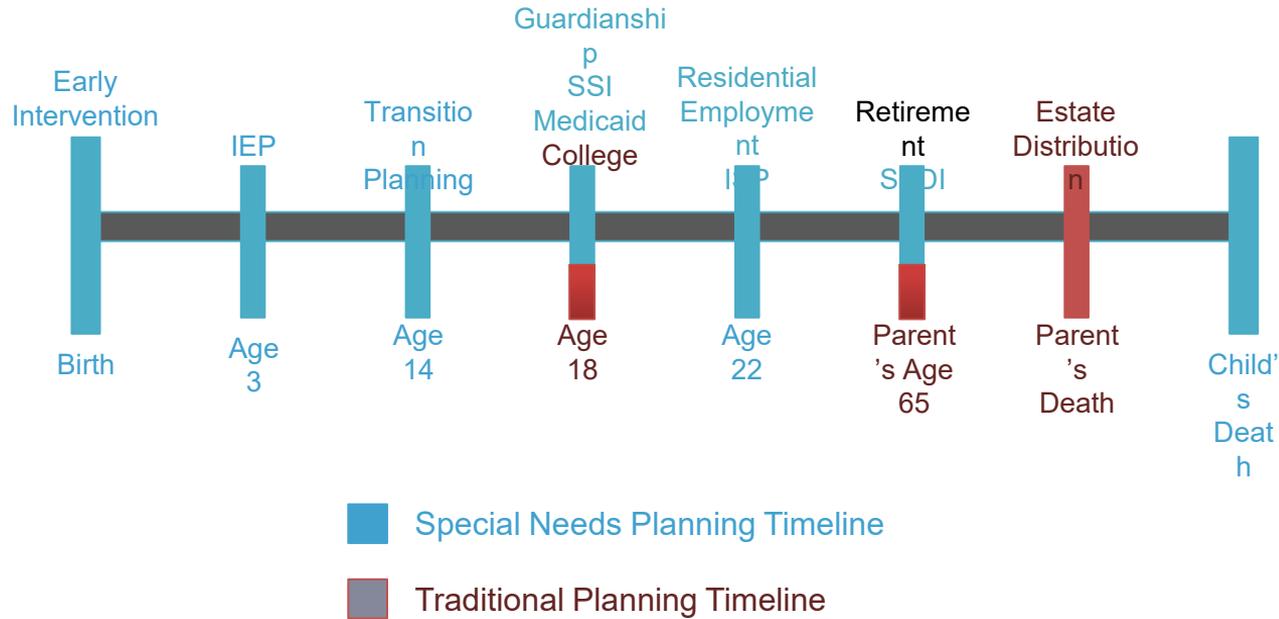
L to R. Alexandria Nadworny, Cynthia Haddad, John Nadworny

# The Five Factors of Special Needs Financial Planning™



# The Special Needs Planning Timeline™

## Planning for TWO Generations



Reprinted by permission from *The Special Needs Planning Guide: How to Prepare for Every Stage of Your Child's Life*, by John W. Nadworny, CFP®, ChFC, MBA and Cynthia R. Haddad, CFP® Copyright © 2007 by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc



## Strategies for using an ABLE Account

1. Help avoid the spend-down process.
  2. Gainfully employed persons with a disability may open an account to save their own money. Can also possibly qualify for the Savers Credit based on contributions made to their ABLE up to \$2,000. Can also contribute more if employer does not make contribution, up to an additional \$12,490 in 2020.
  3. Staying below \$2000 in a Representative Payee Account.
  4. Distributions for housing related expenses.
  5. Gifting from grandparents and others.
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# Next Steps

## 1. Create a Vision

Person Centered Planning  
Letter of Intent

## 2. Establish a Financial Framework

- Review income and expenses
- Review the assets.

## 3. Gather the People/Network

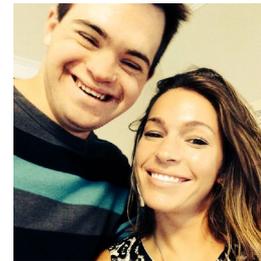
Other Family Members  
Professionals  
Care Providers/Agencies

## 4. Develop a Plan

For today and the future  
Use the Five Factors of Special Needs Planning  
Sustainability for two generations

## 5. Implement the Plan

- Periodically review and monitor the plan
- Watch the planning pressure points along the Special Needs Planning Timeline





# Resources on our website

## **Stay informed:**

1. Sign up for our blog
2. Follow (+ Like!) us on Facebook

## **Download on [SpecialNeedsPlanning.com](https://SpecialNeedsPlanning.com)**

Letter of Intent

The Five Factors Checklist

The Housing Checklist

Trustee Toolkit

ABLE Account

SibTips – A glossary of terms & tips for Siblings

Special Needs Trusts FAQs





# We are here to help

*The Special Needs Financial Planning Team*  
at Affinia Financial Group

John W Nadworny, CFP®, CTFA  
Cynthia R Haddad, CFP®  
Alexandria Nadworny, CFP®, CTFA

[www.specialneedsplanning.com](http://www.specialneedsplanning.com)

This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax or legal advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific situation with a qualified tax or legal advisor.

Prior to investing in a 529 plan investors should consider whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax, or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program. Withdrawals used for qualified expenses are federally tax free. Tax treatment at the state level may vary. Please consult with your tax advisor before investing.

There is no assurance that the techniques and strategies discussed are suitable for all individuals or will yield positive outcomes. Investing involves risk including loss of principal.

