



# ABLE ACCOUNT FACT SHEET



## ELIGIBILITY

- Disability was present before the age of 26
- **One** of the following is true:
  1. You are eligible for SSI or SSDI because of a disability
  2. You experience blindness as determined by the Social Security Act
  3. You have a similarly severe disability with a written diagnosis from a licensed physician that can be produced if requested.

You must also self-certify that you have **one** of the following:

1. Blindness as defined by the Social Security Act (SSA); OR
2. A medically determinable physical or mental impairment with marked severe function limitation that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 continuous months or result in death;

**AND** you must have a written disability-related diagnosis signed by a physician.

 **YOU MUST RECERTIFY ANNUALLY!** 

## QUALIFIED EXPENSES

- Education
- Health and wellness
- Transportation
- Housing
- Legal fees
- Financial management
- Employment training and support
- Assistive technology
- Personal support services
- Oversight and monitoring
- Funeral and burial 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 your tax rate, and will be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty and applicable state taxes.**

## MAINTAINING YOUR BENEFITS

- Balances of \$100,000 or less are excluded from your SSI resource limit
- Only the amount OVER \$100,000 is counted against your limit, along with assets held in non-ABLE accounts.
- If your account causes you to exceed the SSI resource limit, then your SSI benefits will be suspended until the account balance no longer exceeds your resource limit
- You'll continue to be eligible for Medicaid, regardless of your account balance

## CONTRIBUTIONS

- You can contribute up to \$15,000 per calendar year.
- Account balance is limited to \$305,000 at any given time.
- Anyone can contribute to your account. However, only the account owner and authorized persons will retain control over the account.
- You may arrange recurring contributions, which can be scheduled to automatically be drawn into your account how you wish.

## CHECKING OPTION

- Selecting the Checking Option will place all of your assets in a checking account at Fifth Third Bank.
- Account owners who select the checking option may write checks or use a debit card to pay for Qualified Disability Expenses.
- Checking account interest rates will be generally equivalent to short-term deposit rates and will be credited on a monthly basis.
- The Checking Option is subject to the risk that the return on the underlying checking account will vary because of changing interest rates. The return on the checking account may decline with falling interest rates.
- Checking account funds will be covered by FDIC insurance, subject to applicable limits and Fifth Third Bank/FDIC rules for each Account Owner.
- There are no Fifth Third Bank ATMs in the state of New Jersey. Therefore, Account Owners will be subject to transaction fees when withdrawing cash at most ATMs.

## INVESTMENT OPTIONS

