

# ABLE*Con*

AN OVERVIEW OF FLORIDA'S  
DISABILITY RESOURCES  
AND ABLE ACCOUNTS

[ableunited.com](http://ableunited.com)



## ABLE United Overview

Since our official launch in July 2016, ABLE United has provided thousands of Floridians, of all ages and [disability types](#), a new way to save through tax-advantaged saving and investment accounts – an account allows for the saving of private funds that generally do not impact eligibility for current or future benefits.

Funds in an ABLE account can be saved with the help of family, friends and organizations through a gifting page – and may be used for [Qualified Disability Expenses](#) including everyday living expenses like groceries, housing and medical appointments or for future expenses like purchasing a car or house. Individuals can save up to \$16,000 each year in an account and those working have the opportunity to save even more through [ABLE to Work](#).

To get started, an individual must receive SSI or SSDI based on a disability that occurred prior to age 26 or self-certify that they meet the social security standards and have a severe disability. Types of disabilities that qualify include but are not limited to a diagnosis such as Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, cognitive, developmental or mental health disorders.

Enrolling is all done online and is quick, easy and free.

To get started or to learn more, visit [ableunited.com](https://ableunited.com). Resources are also available in Spanish at [ableunited.com/espanol](https://ableunited.com/espanol).

# JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL VIRTUAL EVENT

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FRIDAY, JUNE 10

9:00 – 12:00 P.M. EST







## About ABLECon

We know there are a lot of resources available to the disability community, and navigating them can be overwhelming.

**ABLE accounts can serve as more than just a financial tool but can also work alongside other resources too – that's why we created ABLECon.**

For our second annual event, we are bringing a lineup of advocates and professionals together to discuss some of your most frequently asked questions on employment, estate, and financial planning as they relate to ABLE accounts.

This virtual event is dedicated to educating the disability community on how and why an ABLE United account is right for them.

# Session Schedule

## 1. ABLE United 101

9:00 – 9:45 A.M. EST

ABLE United 101 is a crash course on the ins and outs of ABLE accounts. In this roundtable discussion, we'll cover a high-level overview of ABLE accounts, who is eligible, how it works with benefit programs like Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid, as well as the enrollment process.

### Presenters include:

- John Finch, Director of ABLE United
- Jenn Sikora, Parent and Advocate

## 2. EmployABLE: A Roundtable on Employment and ABLE Accounts

10:00 – 11:00 A.M. EST

In this session, we'll hear from experts from Vocational Rehabilitation and the Able Trust on how individuals with disabilities can save their income without jeopardizing eligibility for current or future benefits like Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid.

### Presenters include:

- John Finch, Director of ABLE United
- Allison Chase, President and CEO of Able Trust
- Jesse Riddle, Transition Program Administrator Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

## 3. Estate and Financial Planning

11:15 - 12:00 P.M. EST

In this session, board certified Elder Law Attorney, Heidi Friedman, will discuss estate and financial planning and how families can make the best decisions for their loved ones with special needs. There are several avenues that can be taken to provide your child with the protection required depending on your child's abilities. The goal of special needs planning is to maximize and supplement (not supplant) government resources that your child is or may be entitled to receive and protect those benefits during his or her lifetime.

It is our hope that you will join us for one, or all three of our sessions, to educate yourself on all things ABLE. Spanish Language and American Sign Language interpreters will be available for all sessions.

**REGISTER NOW**

# Get to Know Our Presenters



**John Finch**

**Director of ABLE United**

John Finch serves as the Director of ABLE United at the Florida Prepaid College Board in Tallahassee, Florida. John oversaw the launch and continued success of the ABLE United program. Previously he served at The Arc of Florida in various capacities including the launch of a dental program that seeks to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive emergency dental care. With experience in both the non-profit social services field and financial sector, John continues to strive to make a difference in people's lives.



**Jenn Sikora**

**Parent and Advocate**

Jenn Sikora is a parent advocate. She served on Congressman Bill McCollum's legislative staff for over five years, working on a variety of issue areas. After the birth of her son, Sean, she became involved with the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia. She served as a Board member and co-chaired the Advocacy & Government Affairs committee. It was this group of parents who began the work on ABLE accounts. In 2007, her family moved to Orlando to be closer to family and Jenn became an active volunteer in the Down syndrome community, a Girl Scout leader, and is Vice Chair of the Parent and Family Experience Partners of AdventHealth Hospital for Children. She currently works in her family's printing business and is a Brand Ambassador for ABLE United. Sean became the first ABLE United account holder in 2016.



**Allison Chase**

**President and CEO of the Able Trust**

Allison Chase is the President & CEO at the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, known as The Able Trust. For over twenty-five years, she has dedicated her career to employment of people with disabilities. She has both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Rehabilitation Services from Florida State University, and completed the National Executive Leadership Institute for rehabilitation leaders at the University of Oklahoma in 1999 and most recently, the Florida State University College of Business, Non Profit Executive Program. She is on the Florida Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees, member of the national Society of Human Resource Professionals, the Florida Economic Development Council, the Florida Society of Association Executives, and the UCF Center for Unique Abilities Advisory Council.

# Get to Know Our Presenters



## **Jesse Riddle**

### **Transition Program Administrator Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

Jesse Riddle currently works as the Transition Program Administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation. Jesse has worked with Vocational Rehabilitation since 2009. He started his career with VR as an OPS VR Technician, Career Service VR Tech, Sr. VR Counselor, VR Consultant, and VR Unit Supervisor. Jesse has a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from West Virginia University. Jesse's areas of strengths include school engagement and collaboration along with a passion for working with students to help them succeed. He believes that everyone should have the same opportunities for employment, regardless of their disabilities.



## **Heidi Friedman**

### **Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney**

Heidi F. Friedman is one of only a few select Board-Certified Elder Law Attorneys, with extensive experience in Elder Law, Medicaid programs, Veteran's Administration programs and Special Needs Planning. As a South Florida native, she is the sister of two Army veterans and the mother of two sons, one with special needs. She has been a dedicated advocate for the special needs community and assisted other children with special needs to obtain necessary services within the school system. She successfully lobbied the state legislature to increase education funding and promoted healthcare issues. Heidi is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. She also sits on the Unauthorized Practice of Law committee, as well as the Medicaid committee for the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar.



# THREE SESSIONS. ONE DAY.

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EMPLOYMENT  
SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING  
AND ABLE

