

# Disabled people get help in saving money

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People with disabilities or their families now will be permitted to create a tax-free savings account to pay for housing, transportation and other services to help them lead independent lives, under a program announced Monday by Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson.

Medicaid and long-term Social Security Disability programs do not allow recipients to hold more than \$2,000 in assets. The savings plan available in New Jersey known as Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, protects people from losing their benefits by allowing them to save money for expenses not covered by their monthly stipend, Johnson said.

People qualify if they acquired their disability before age 26 and qualify for Medicaid or Social Secu-

rity benefits, or have been diagnosed with blindness, according to Johnson.

Qualified expenses include education, health and wellness, housing, transportation, legal fees, financial management, job training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, according to the announcement. People are permitted to save up to \$100,000 tax-free, under the program.

“People with disabilities are often among the poorest citizens in our state,” said Dan Keating, executive director of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities. “NJ ABLE will allow them to save for their future without jeopardizing their benefits.”

The savings program was created under federal law in 2014. New Jersey passed its own law so its residents could participate.

For more details, visit [savewithable.com](http://savewithable.com)