

# Newsletter

Keeping Our New Mexico Families Informed

May 2021

## Ask ABLE New Mexico

Have a question about the program or your ABLE account? Call us at 505.639.3525 or send an email to [Heather.Benavidez@state.nm.us](mailto:Heather.Benavidez@state.nm.us).

**Q** What will happen to the ABLE account if the beneficiary's health improves?

**A** If the health of the beneficiary improves and they're no longer eligible for an account, the account will remain open for one calendar year. Withdrawals and contributions can continue until the end of that year, at which time eligibility for the account will cease, contributions are no longer permitted, withdrawals will be considered non-qualified, and any interest on the withdrawal will be subject to income taxes. Plan ahead to avoid possible tax penalties.

**Q** What will happen to the ABLE account if the beneficiary passes away?

**A** There is no named beneficiary or transfer upon the death of the individual. However, funds in

an ABLE account can be rolled over into a surviving sibling's ABLE account. The rollover form and instructions can be found [here](#). If a qualified ABLE account does not exist, and the estate of the individual is estimated at less than \$50,000 (eliminating the need for probate), the decedent's next of kin will contact STABLE and access the remaining funds for funeral and burial expenses. Estate recovery (e.g., Medicaid payback) can take place if the decedent is 55 or older at the time of death and payments were made while the account was in existence. It's important to remember that the estate of the individual has first access to remaining funds.

**Q** Can an individual have an account with ABLE New Mexico (NM residents only) and one with Maryland ABLE (permits non-resident account owners)?


**A** No, an individual cannot have more than one ABLE account. The ABLE National Resource Center is a great place to compare programs, and even has a

side-by-side state comparison tool that can be found [at this website](#).

**Q** My child is 34, living with a disability, and receiving SSI. Are they eligible for an ABLE New Mexico account?

**A** Yes. Eligible individuals of any age can open an ABLE account as long as their disability developed or was diagnosed before they turned 26.

We welcome your questions and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more program information, review the Plan Disclosure Supplement [here](#). 

## ABLE New Mexico Presentation Available

Do you know a person or an organization who would be interested in an ABLE New Mexico presentation? For more information, contact:

**Heather Benavidez** at (505) 639-3525 or [heather.benavidez@state.nm.us](mailto:heather.benavidez@state.nm.us)

## How to Request On-Site Vaccination Events

The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) announced on May 11 that businesses, nonprofits, religious congregations, community centers, and other organizations can now request on-site vaccination events through a new DOH webform at [getvaxnm.com](https://getvaxnm.com).


“DOH is committed to making vaccine available to New Mexicans where they live and work,” said Cabinet Secretary Dr. Tracie Collins. “By offering



organizations the opportunity to request on-site vaccination events, we'll make getting a shot even easier.”

Organizations that can bring a minimum of 25 people to a vaccination event—through a combination of

employees/members, family, or members of the surrounding community—will qualify, and DOH will work with the organization on scheduling. In some cases, DOH may combine multiple requests and create a single event in a given geographical location. DOH may also redirect requesting organizations to pre-existing events.

New Mexicans can also continue to register and self-schedule their vaccine appointments at <https://vaccinenm.org/>. 

## Mental Health Awareness Month

*by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)*

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. During May, NAMI joins the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Each year we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.

### You Are Not Alone

For 2021's Mental Health Awareness Month, NAMI will continue to amplify the message of “You Are Not Alone.” We will use this time to focus on the healing value of connecting in safe ways, prioritizing mental health, and acknowledging that it's okay to not be okay through NAMI's blog, personal stories, videos,

digital toolkits, social media engagements, and national events.

Together we can realize our shared vision of a nation where anyone affected by mental illness can get the appropriate support and quality of care to live healthy, fulfilling lives—a nation where no one feels alone in their struggle.

Help us spread the word through awareness, support and advocacy activities. [Share awareness information, images, and graphics](#) for #MHAM throughout May.

### Resources

Share with us how you stay connected by writing your personal story or sharing #NotAlone [graphics and messages](#) with your community.




### Partner Resources

Download the [2021 Awareness Event Guide](#) for May's Mental Health Awareness Month.

### Share Your Story

Throughout the month, we will feature personal stories from real people experiencing mental health conditions. By reading about lived experience, we aim to make people feel less alone in their mental health journeys and increase awareness about mental illness.

Share your story and tell us what the message of “You Are Not Alone” means to you! 

## Saver's Credit: A Retirement Tax Break for the Middle Class

Your Retirement Contributions Could be the Key to a Lower Tax Bill

by David Muhlbaum

Saving for retirement is even more rewarding if your earnings are low enough to qualify for the Saver's Tax Credit. For 2021, single filers with adjusted gross income of \$33,000 or less may be eligible. Taxpayers married filing jointly must have an AGI of \$66,000 or less. (For 2020, the thresholds are \$32,500 and \$65,000, respectively.)

Fall within the income limits and you can claim a tax credit worth up to \$1,000 for

singles or \$2,000 for joint filers. The credit is based on 10%, 20%, or 50% of the first \$2,000 (\$4,000 for joint filers) you contribute to retirement accounts, including 401(k)s, traditional IRAs, and Roths. The lower your income, the higher the percentage you get back via the credit.

People with disabilities who have an ABLE account can also take advantage of the Saver's Credit. Contributions to these accounts qualify for the

credit, so long as they're from the designated beneficiary.

Some people can't claim the Saver's Credit, regardless of income. Taxpayers under 18, full-time students, and those claimed as dependents aren't eligible. But if you do qualify, every dollar you claim is one dollar less you have to pay in taxes.

To claim the credit, you'll need to complete [Form 8880](#) and submit it with your tax return. ✚

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## New Webinar: Mental Health Awareness Month and the Power of ABLE Accounts

Wednesday, May 26, 2021  
2:00-3:00 pm ET

Join our ABLE National Resource Center (ABLE NRC) Ambassadors as they discuss ABLE accounts as a wellness tool for people who have a mental health diagnosis (psychiatric disabilities). Our panelists will share how ABLE accounts empower them to build economic resilience while promoting better mental health outcomes.

Learn how ABLE account owners have successfully saved and invested with ABLE.

The Ambassadors will share saving strategies, goals they have met, and their dreams for the future. In addition to ABLE-eligible individuals and their family members, this webinar is essential for the mental health community, including providers and peer counselors. It will provide information to share with those you serve who have a mental health diagnosis and are interested in taking steps toward improving their quality of life and building financial resilience. ✚

### Presenter/Facilitator:

- Miranda Kennedy, Director, ABLE NRC

### Panelists:

- Sarah Perez, ABLE Account Owner and ABLE NRC Ambassador
- Teresa Price, Parent of an ABLE Account Owner and ABLE NRC Ambassador
- Logan Price, ABLE Account Owner
- Hector Ramirez, ABLE Account Owner and ABLE NRC Ambassador

[Click here to register.](#) ✚

Please note: Real-time captioning will be provided for this webinar. For other accommodation requests, questions about the webinar, or questions about the registration process, please contact us at [info@ablenrc.org](mailto:info@ablenrc.org).



## The Moving Forward Conference & Self-Advocate Summit 2021

A Virtual Event: Wednesdays—June 9, 16, 23, 30

The world we knew just a year ago no longer exists. People with disabilities, providers and families who provide support, and others have had to adjust to the new way of living, working, and making ends meet with the impact of a public health crisis. Yet the community has remained resilient and has become creative in their advocacy and more collaborative in getting through daily routines.

In collaboration with the Developmental Disability Council and the Center for Self-Advocacy, The Arc of NM is currently seeking proposals from self-advocates, families, service providers and other professionals, educators, and others for the 2021 conference related to this year's conference theme: **Moving Forward Together: Innovation, Advocacy and Collaboration.**



**MOVING FORWARD  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Topics may include:

- Creative strategies on coping with isolation during a pandemic
- How self-advocacy can empower people with disabilities to reclaim access and independence
- How disability has impacted access to healthcare today
- How policies have affected waiver programs
- The importance of employment and inclusion during a pandemic ✚

### ABQ People First's Wacky Wednesday

Attention all Wacky Wednesday friends: We will begin meeting twice a month. Our next Wacky Wednesday meeting will be on May 19 when Veronica will show us an update on her beautiful gardens.

Join us at <https://zoom.us/j/777552491> or Zoom meeting number 777552491.

Or call in: (669) 900-6833, meeting 777552491.

During the month of June we will not have our meetings but instead invite everyone to join the DDC Summit and the Arc of NM virtual conference which will be held on Wednesdays. We will provide more information as this gets closer. ✚

### ABLE New Mexico YouTube Video

"Saving for the Future of Your Child with a Disability"

<https://youtu.be/5KzieaoyKSQ>

### ABLE New Mexico Now Has

# 804

**Active Accounts.  
Go, New Mexico!**

### New Mexico ABLE Online Demo

With Ronn Jaish



<https://youtu.be/kcDx0en7khc>

You can email Ronn at [info@ABLEreport.com](mailto:info@ABLEreport.com)