

## The New Mexico State Treasurer’s Office and ABLE New Mexico Join Broad Effort to Observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The New Mexico State Treasurer’s Office (STO) and ABLE New Mexico are honored to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America’s workers with disabilities. This year’s theme is “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion.”

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each



year “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the word “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

“Our national recovery from the pandemic cannot be completed without the inclusion of all Americans, in particular people with disabilities,” said

U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. “Their contributions have historically been vital to our nation’s success, and are more important today than ever. We must build an economy that fully includes the talent and drive of those with disabilities.”

Reflecting this year’s theme, throughout the month the State Treasurer’s Office would like to highlight its ABLE New Mexico program that allows individuals with disabilities to save and

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**ABLE New Mexico  
Now Has  
908  
Active Accounts.  
Go, New Mexico!**

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invest their money without risking their eligibility for public benefits. Many of our account beneficiaries are employed in frontline or essential jobs and are working hard every day to assist us on our road to recovery. ABLE to Work helps these employees by allowing \$12,760 of earned income contributions to the ABLE NM account in addition to the \$15,000 annual limit. Since our launch in 2018, we've guided over 900 New Mexicans on their paths to financial independence.



“The State Treasurer’s Office is proud to be a part of this year’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month,” said Treasurer Eichenberg. “We want to spread the important message that we value all perspectives, including those of individuals with disabilities.”

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages—during October and throughout the year—by visiting <https://www.dol.gov/ndeam>. 



Champion of the Year: New Mexico is a gala event that unites and recognizes the community’s most active leaders in the name of inclusion. The celebration is **Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 5:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque.**


Through raising funds and awareness for Best Buddies, our Champions generate countless opportunities for friendships, jobs, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). At the campaign’s conclusion, we will join together to celebrate each other’s accomplishments, honor the Champions’ collective impact, and name the ultimate Champion of the Year!

Help us continue to provide these meaningful opportunities to people with IDD by supporting a Champion’s campaign, purchasing tickets, becoming a corporate sponsor, or making a general donation

to the cause. We hope you’ll join us in this global movement.

All funds raised benefit Best Buddies, which is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people with IDD. Our programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy, and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

The IDD community that Best Buddies serves includes, but is not limited to, people with Down Syndrome, Autism, Fragile X, Williams Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

For more information, contact: Tessah Latson, Best Buddies International, 505.401.3242 or [TessahLatson@bestbuddies.org](mailto:TessahLatson@bestbuddies.org), or visit <https://www.bestbuddieschampion.org/newmexico/>. 



# Parents Reaching Out

Parents Reaching Out invites you to its October workshops. PRO offers a variety of workshops to meet the needs of families and professionals across the state at no cost. If you are in need of sign language interpretation or any other assistance accessing the workshops, please call when you register or at least a week prior to the workshop: (505) 247-0192 or 1-800-524-5176.

See a workshop you are interested in, but can't attend? Don't worry! Still register and PRO will send you the link to watch on your own time.

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## Navigating Special Education and the IEP Process

Wednesday, October 13, 20, 27, 2021  
10:00 am-12:00 noon

This three-part series will address the special education process, the individualized education plan, and the importance of parent participation in decision-making and advocacy.

### Part 1: Identification and Evaluation

Wednesday, October 13  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Learn what steps to take when your child is struggling.

Discover when/how to request an evaluation.

[Register](#)

### Part 2: Developing an Individualized Education Plan

Wednesday, October 20  
10:00 am-12:00 noon

PRO will explain each component of the IEP and its significance to your child's education.

[Register](#)

### Part 3: Communication Strategies and Dispute Resolution

Wednesday, October 27  
10:00 am-12:00 noon

Discover strategies to maintain good communication with the school. Learn about special education regulations, state guidelines, and options to resolve disputes.

[Register](#)

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## Part 1: Applying for the Developmental Disability Waiver (DDW)

Friday, October 15, 2021  
10:00 am - 11:30am

In Part 1 of this series you will learn what the waiver is, how to register, and the process from receiving the diagnosis/ disability to determination.

[Register](#)

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## Part 2: Applying for the Developmental Disability Waiver (DDW)

Friday, October 22, 2021  
10:00 am - 11:30 am

In Part 2 of this series you will learn how to check your status, what each of the statuses mean, how to update your intake, and what resources are available to those when you meet the criteria.

[Register](#)

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## Early Childhood Legislation, NM Child & Youth Day Legislation

Tuesday, October 26, 2021  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Learn how to share your family experiences in the Early Intervention Program birth to 3 with your legislator. Discover how to find your legislator, and how and why to track a bill during legislation.

[Register](#)

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## Forward @ 14

Thursdays: October 28,  
November 4, 11, 18, 2021  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Forward@14 is a series of workshops designed for youth to gain more knowledge and understanding transitioning into adulthood.

[Register](#)

### Session 1

Thursday, October 28  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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Learn about Self Advocacy and Disability Awareness and the laws that protect individuals with disabilities.

### Session 2

Thursday, November 4  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Learn about what your options are after leaving high school and discover the skills need to run your own Individualized Education Plan or Individualized Support Plan Meeting.

### Session 3

Thursday, November 11  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Learn about the Healthcare transition and some of the necessary considerations when transitioning from pediatric care to adult providers.

### Session 4

Thursday, November 18  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Learn about social opportunities and the importance of fun! Come play Jeopardy and test your knowledge after attending the other sessions. PRO will have a resource fair and give away some prizes.

## Support Groups

### Making Connections: Virtual Family Support Group

Thursday, October 21, 2021  
10:00 am - 11:30 am

Come to our monthly family-

to-family support group. Share your experiences parenting your child or grandchild with disabilities and connect with others who relate to your journey.

[Register](#)

### Grupo de Apoyo

Jueves 21 de Octubre  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Como invitada especial a nuestro Grupo de Apoyo tenemos a Casa Fortaleza con el tema "Si estoy casada@ puedo experimentar Violencia Sexual?"

[Regístrase](#) ✚

### Off the Crutch Podcast

Tune in each week to the "Off the Crutch" podcast for

an honest and truthful perspective from a disabled lens.

This show is hosted by TEDx Speaker and Certified ADA

Coordinator Travis Davis, M.S. More information at <https://www.offthecrutch.com/> ✚



## People First of Abq's Wacky Wednesday

Our meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 10:30 am.

To join, visit <https://zoom.us/j/777552491> or log into your Zoom account and enter meeting number 777552491.

Prefer to call in? That number is +16699006833,,777552491#.

People First of Albuquerque's mission is to educate people with disabilities that they have the rights and the power within them to speak up for themselves. ✚

A banner for "New Mexico ABLE Online Demo" with a blue and yellow background. It features the New Mexico state seal, a photo of Ronn Gaish, and the text "Special Needs".

New Mexico  
ABLE Online  
Demo  
With Ronn Gaish

<https://youtu.be/kcDx0en7khc>  
You can email [Ronn at info@ABLEreport.com](mailto:Ronn@ABLEreport.com)

### ABLE New Mexico YouTube Video

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

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

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)