

## What's New with ABLE New Mexico

It's been a very eventful few weeks and we are excited to share some of the highlights with you!

We attended the **Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala** in November and had a wonderful time. Thanks to Tessah Latson, State Director of Best Buddies New Mexico, and Travis Davis for inviting us.



**ABLE New Mexico  
Now Has  
964  
Active Accounts.  
Go, New Mexico!**

ABLE New Mexico and the State Treasurer's Office Local Government Investment Pool teams had the pleasure of presenting at the **New Mexico Government Finance Officers Association** 2021 Winter Conference on December 2, 2021.

Thanks to Teresa Emrich, Administration Services Director/

Treasurer of the City of Farmington, for hosting us!



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**STABLE Visa Cards** are a wonderful feature of ABLE New Mexico accounts. The cards are available to all ABLE New Mexico account holders and their Authorized Legal Representative (ALR), but must be requested.

Funds are loaded onto STABLE Visa Cards and can be used anywhere Visa is accepted.

True Link Financial recently shared the following account spending trends which highlight how ABLE account owners use their cards and some of their expenditures.

Most account beneficiaries use their cards for day-to-day spending.

- 7 purchases per month on average
- \$17 is the median amount of a purchase with an ABLE card
- 64% of purchases are made by the beneficiary
- Top 3 spending categories: shopping, groceries, and phone/TV services
- Top 3 merchants: Amazon, Wal-Mart, & McDonald's

ABLE card users have the option to add notes to their online transaction records, adding context to

expenditures, such as:

- Wheelchair van battery
- Shower chair
- Haircut with highlights
- Medical care for service dog
- Sweater for graduation
- October cell phone bill
- Lunch with boyfriend
- Private music therapy session

For more information on STABLE Visa Cards, visit <https://ablenewmexico.com/stablecard-info>.



We are very pleased to announce that on December 9, 2021, the **National Association of State Treasurers** (NAST) membership voted unanimously to revise the NAST Constitution to create an ABLE Network within the association.

The following will be added:

#### **Article V**

**Section 4.1. The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Network.**

**In 2021, the ABLE Network was established under NAST. This is a**

**network of state officials who administer Section 529A programs and is dedicated to enhancing the communication, cooperation, and effective administration among the plans. The Network also seeks to influence the setting of national policy affecting Section 529A programs and those saving for the needs of people with disabilities.**

We are also excited to work with the NAST membership to increase our efforts to pass the **ABLE Age Adjustment Act** (S.331/H.R.1219) to raise the age of eligibility from 26 to 46. We expect the amendment to be voted on in February 2022. Don't forget to contact Senators Heinrich and Lujan, and Congresswomen Leger Fernandez and Stansbury to show your support! Visit <https://nast.org/able-act/> to learn more.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE TREASURERS**

## December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

# CELEBRATING **35** YEARS OF THE DESIGNATED DRIVER



Impaired driving includes distracted driving, drugged driving, and drunk driving.

December is one of the busiest and most dangerous on the nation's roads. With the holidays comes an increase in social events that involve alcohol, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data show that this results in an increase in DUIs and fatal drunk-driving crashes.

### **Tie One on for Safety®**

Tie One On For Safety® is [MADD's](#) longest-running Designated Driver Campaign.

Now in its 35<sup>th</sup> year, Tie One On for Safety® originates from the phrase "tie one on," which is slang for drinking alcohol.

At MADD, we use the phrase to remind everyone that drinking and driving don't mix, and to always designate a non-drinking driver.

Every holiday season from November 1 through December 31, MADD asks you to display a MADD ribbon in a visible location to remind everyone to always designate a non-drinking driver. That message is especially important when holiday travel, parties, and family gatherings put more people on the roads.

This year, MADD and National Presenting Sponsor Waymo are celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Designated Driver. You can help us create a nation of No More Victims by always taking personal responsibility for getting yourself and your loved ones home safely.

### **How Can You Participate in Tie One On For Safety®?**

You can help by tying one on for safety this holiday season – display a MADD red ribbon, magnet, or decal on your vehicle.

And remember:

- Put safety before the party; plan ahead and always designate a non-drinking driver
- Never ride with someone who is impaired
- Choose to be the non-drinking designated driver
- Host parties that include mocktails and other non-alcoholic beverages and provide alternate transportation or accommodations for guests who choose to drink

Together, we can put an end to this 100% preventable crime and make this holiday season safer for our loved ones on the roadways.







# Be a Thoughtful Host.

## 8 PARTY TIPS TO HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY GATHERING.

The holidays are a time for friends and family. Here's how you can help protect your friends and family this holiday season as we celebrate 35 years of the Designated Driver.



As guests RSVP, confirm that they have a plan for a safe way home via a non-drinking designated driver, such as a friend, rideshare service like Uber or Lyft or public transportation.



Plan activities like party games or door prizes that do not involve alcohol. Incorporate a theme and consider those guests that do not drink alcohol.



Provide other beverage options (i.e. sodas, non-alcoholic ciders, hot cocoa, or coffee). Make the other options entertaining! Create a hot cocoa bar, a custom coffee bar set up or build your own ice cream soda option. Drinking at parties is not required to have a good time and being creative with non-alcoholic options can be fun and festive!



Provide plenty of food to keep your guests from drinking on an empty stomach.



Create a themed "mocktail" for a fun alternative for your non-drinking designated drivers and others who prefer not to drink alcohol.



Never serve alcohol to someone under 21 and never ask anyone under 21 to serve alcohol at parties.



Remember that only time sobers a person up, which means you may need to offer the sofa or guest room to guests who should stay put for the night.



As the thoughtful and responsible host that you are, have fun- but not too much fun. Stay within your limits to make sure your guests stay within theirs.



## 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/7624529293> or log into your Zoom account and enter meeting number 7624529293.

Prefer to call in? That number is:  
+16699006833,,7624529293#.

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.

### ABQ People First Officers

- Roel Adamson, ABQ People First President
- Amelia Dickey, ABQ People First Vice President

### ABQ People First Support

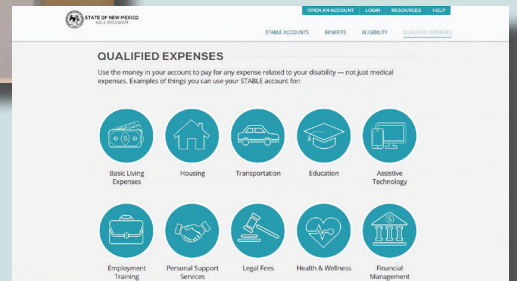
- Wendy Corry DDC
- Jenny Bartos, DDSD
- Veronica Chavez-Neuman, The Arc of NM

Happy  
New  
Year  
♥

## ABLE New Mexico YouTube Video

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

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



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/>

**New Mexico ABLE Online Demo**

With Ronn Jaish

<https://youtu.be/kcDx0en7khc>

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

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)



# ALBUQUERQUE

## Health and Wellness Fair

December 11 • 10 AM-4 PM

# FREE TO THE PUBLIC

## FREE WELLNESS TESTING & SCREENINGS

This includes blood pressure, blood sugar, blood oxygen levels, comprehensive metabolic panel, hemoglobin A1c, and more!

*Free onsite testing available to the first 150 adults (18 years of age and older) and free appointments made onsite for all additional participants at locations throughout the area.*

## FREE COVID VACCINATIONS

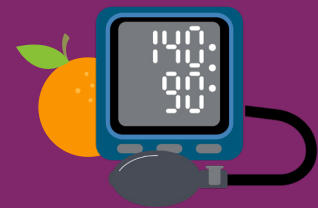
## FREE VISION & DENTAL SCREENINGS

## FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR & KIDS ZONE

## FREE RAFFLE PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS

## FREE HEALTHY FOOD GIVEAWAY

*Available to the first 200 families!*



# Join Us!



Masks  
Required



Alamosa  
Community  
Center

6900 Gonzales Rd SW  
Albuquerque NM



ABQ RIDE  
Free Fares for  
Seniors and  
Students