
MARCH 18, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM 2
INFORMATION ITEM**

CALIFORNIA ABLE ACT BOARD

Executive Director's Report

Background

The Executive Director's Report included an overview on the following items:

- Program Update
 - Enrollment and Engagement Data
- Operations Update
 - Contracts
 - Budget
- Outreach Update
 - 2025 Abilities Expo
 - Presentation and Events
 - Monthly Newsletter

Presenter

Thomas Martin, Executive Director, California ABLE Act Board

Attachments

- Attachment #1 – Executive Director's Report
 - Attachment A – Outreach Report
 - Attachment B – February Newsletter
- Attachment #2 – Executive Director's Report Presentation
 - Attachment A – Assembly Bill 984 (Nguyen)
 - Attachment B – Assembly Bill 1076 (Addis)
 - Attachment C – BCP - Eligibility Expansion Outreach

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CALIFORNIA ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT BOARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 18, 2025

Program Update

Enrollment and Engagement Data

CalABLE ended 2024 on a high note. In Q4, 868 new accounts were opened, far better than any other quarter in years. Several milestones were reached in December, with 13,000 accounts and \$170 million in assets. Contributions, distributions, gifts, and prepaid card use all reached record highs.

Part of the high growth in Q4 can be attributed to the cyclical trends and economic activity that occur at the end of the year. However, Q4 was also the latest in a series of high-performing quarters across 2024. Nearly 50% more accounts were opened in 2024 than in 2023. Contributions rose by a third, and the average account balance grew 9%. Overall, total assets increased by more than 35%. This growth is a testament to the value that CalABLE accounts provide to the community, and to the hard work of the CalABLE team in expanding the program's visibility.

Operations Update

Contracts

The RFP for 529A Investment Consulting Services selected Meketa Investment Group and is currently awaiting approval from DGS. The current contract expires March 31, 2025.

Budget

In Q4, CalABLE collected \$97,390 in account fees, an increase of 43% year over year. The total amount of program fees collected since the program's inception reached \$1,093,724.

Outreach Update

2025 Abilities Expo

CalABLE sponsored the 2025 LA Abilities Expo, continuing our commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in achieving financial independence. For the first time in the event's history, California State Treasurer

Fiona Ma officially opened the expo with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. CalABLE partnered with the Expo organizers to include share materials with attendees via social media, promotional videos, a dedicated email list, website advertisements, banners, a CalABLE-focused registration page, and more. CalABLE led two workshops to explain the benefits of CalABLE to attendees and had a centrally located spot in the convention center to maximize outreach. The booth featured CalABLE ambassadors and a live account enrollment station. To promote the event, CalABLE produced a promotional video, which was shared across multiple channels.

Presentations and Events

CalABLE is launching a strategic partnership with Special Olympics Northern California. The partnership will involve a joint outreach campaign, including social media posts, videos with athletes, a dedicated webinar, and participation at the Summer Games in Santa Clara.

Presentations and Events (See Attachment A)

During Q1 (through 3/1/25), CalABLE delivered 20 presentations, attended 3 in-person events, and hosted 3 webinars. Collectively, CalABLE connected with approximately 2,306 people. This includes 1,052 attendees at CalABLE's webinars.

Monthly Newsletter

CalABLE's sends out a monthly newsletter to our Listserv of approximately 20,000 people. The list comprises of people who attend a webinar, sign up for information, and CalABLE account holders. The [December newsletter](#) had 11,744 opens with a 46.7% open rate, the [January newsletter](#) had 12,509 opens with a 49.6% open rate, and the [February newsletter](#) had 11,893 opens with a 46.3% open rate.

**Attachment A
Outreach Report**

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CalABLE Outreach Report

In the first quarter of 2025 (through 3/3/25), CalABLE provided 20 presentations, took part in 3 in-person events, and hosted 3 webinars. These activities enabled CalABLE to reach approximately 2,306 people.

In December, CalABLE hosted a webinar on Special Needs Trusts. According to a poll, 55% of attendees were first-time participants, with a total attendance of 454 people. In January, the CalABLE 101 Basics webinar had 45% first-time attendees, with a total of 309 participants, while the February Tax Time Tips webinar had 30% new attendees and a total attendance of 289. On average, 43% of CalABLE webinar participants are first-time attendees, demonstrating continued interest from new audiences and the growing reach of our webinars.

In the last three months CalABLE have engaged in various outreach efforts as well as scheduling presentations and events throughout the 2025 calendar year.

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Attachment B
February Newsletter

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CalABLE February Newsletter

Join CalABLE at the LA Abilities Expo!



CalABLE will be at the LA Abilities Expo on March 7-9, 2025!

CalABLE is proud to sponsor the LA Abilities Expo, supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in achieving financial independence. At the expo, you can find a range of disability products, services, technologies, adaptive sports, service dog demos, and more.

[Register for the expo!](#)

You won't want to miss what CalABLE has in store at the expo, including:

- A ribbon cutting ceremony featuring California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Chair of the CalABLE Board, to kick off the expo on Friday, March 7, at 11 AM
- Workshops hosted by Executive Director Thomas Martin
 - *Friday, March 7 from 11:15 AM - 12 PM*
 - *Saturday, March 8 from 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM*
- Special giveaway items

- CalABLE Ambassador meet and greets
- **Promotion:** Be one of the first 100 people to set up your CalABLE account before or at the expo and receive a \$50 contribution in your CalABLE account. Use code **EXPO2025**
 - CalABLE can even help you set up your account at the expo! Just head over to **booth 433**

CalABLE is California's savings and investment plan for people with disabilities.



Save without impacting benefits

Grow tax-free investments for your future

*Spend your money anytime, anywhere
(like at the [LA Abilities Expo!](#))*



How to claim your \$50:

- ◆ Visit CalABLE.ca.gov
- ◆ Click "Open an account"
- ◆ Complete the enrollment process
- ◆ Fund the account with \$25
- ◆ Enter the Promo Code: **EXPO2025**

Get started at
CalABLE.ca.gov

Promo Code:
EXPO2025

Promotion is available until March 31, 2025, for the first 100 funded CalABLE accounts opened using the Promo Code "EXPO2025"

"Express Yourself" Campaign

artistic skills to create art for postcards/notecards to spread the word about CalABLE. This is a great opportunity to highlight your talent at CalABLE outreach events, such as the [LA Abilities Expo](#) on March 7-9, 2025.

Email us for more details!



Your Amazing Artwork to CalABLE - Win \$200!

Email calable@treasurer.ca.gov with your artwork (photo, drawing, or painting) to help us promote CalABLE!



The selected submission(s) will receive a \$200 contribution to their CalABLE account.

Deadline*
5 PM PT on Monday, March 3, 2025



*The March 3rd deadline is for those who would like their artwork to be considered for the LA Abilities Expo (March 7-9). Thereafter, we will continue to accept submissions until March 31, 2025.

Winners of the "Why I Love CalABLE" Campaign

Thank you to everyone who submitted a quote for our "Why I Love CalABLE" campaign! We loved hearing everyone's stories. Our account holders are amazing!

Why I Love CalABLE

"I am able to save for enrichment, therapies and adaptive equipment in order for my daughter to thrive and live a joyous life."

Cassie,
CalABLE
Authorized Legal
Representative



Why I Love CalABLE

"I love CalABLE because it has given me an increased sense of stability by allowing me to save for an emergency."

After long periods of homelessness in my life, my CalABLE account helps me feel more confident that I will be able to financially face another crisis without losing my housing again."



Elizabeth
CalABLE account holder



Why I Love CalABLE



Maayan,
CalABLE account holder

"I love CalABLE because being able to save money without jeopardizing the public assistance I receive allows me to do more with my life, such as pursue my educational goals."

My quality of life has greatly improved since opening my CalABLE account because I know that I have some savings to fall back on when needed."



Why I Love CalABLE



Darren,
CalABLE account holder

“As a blind person, you know it’s just a matter of time before some expensive piece of equipment you need, decides to stop working, or needs an update.

CalABLE is like having a parachute. You don’t have to panic when these things happen and you can get your repair done quickly and get back to completing your GOALS!”



Register for our March Webinar for Account Holders



Financial Planning with CalABLE

March 12, 2025

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. PT

This program is free and open to the general public.

Dial in by calling
1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID:
845 6099 9755



CalABLE Monthly Webinar Series

Register now:



https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VtxZOlcQS2S23EflpaEAIA

CalABLE is governed by the California ABLE Act Board, an instrumentality of the State of California. Vestwell State Savings, LLC ("Vestwell") is the program administrator. More information about the program can be found at calable.ca.gov.

CalABLE is a savings and investment program offered by the state of California to people with disabilities that began before reaching age 26.

In this webinar, we will explore:

- New account features
- Savings and investment resources
- Spending with your CalABLE account



Detalles en español en el post de abajo

This webinar will be recorded. Please [register](#) to be notified when the recording is available.

Detalles del Seminario Web:

Planificación Financiera con CalABLE

12 de marzo de 2025

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM PT

En este seminario web exploraremos:

- Nuevas funciones de la cuenta

- Recursos para ahorros e inversiones
- Gastar con tu cuenta de CalABLE

Register for our Spanish Webinar



CalABLE 101 Español

26 de Marzo, 2025

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. PT

Este programa es gratuito y está abierto al público en general.

Llama por teléfono al:
1-669-900-6833

Seminario ID:
848 9138 2878



Serie mensual de seminarios web de CalABLE

Regístrate ahora!



<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/84891382878>

CalABLE se rige por la Junta de la Ley ABLE de California, un organismo del Estado de California. Vestwell State Savings, LLC ("Vestwell") es el administrador del programa. Puede encontrar más información sobre el programa en calable.ca.gov.

CalABLE es un programa de ahorro e inversión ofrecido por el estado de California a personas que desarrollaron una discapacidad antes de cumplir los 26 años de edad.

En este seminario web exploraremos:

- Qué es CalABLE?
- Nuestras preguntas más frecuentes
- Recursos

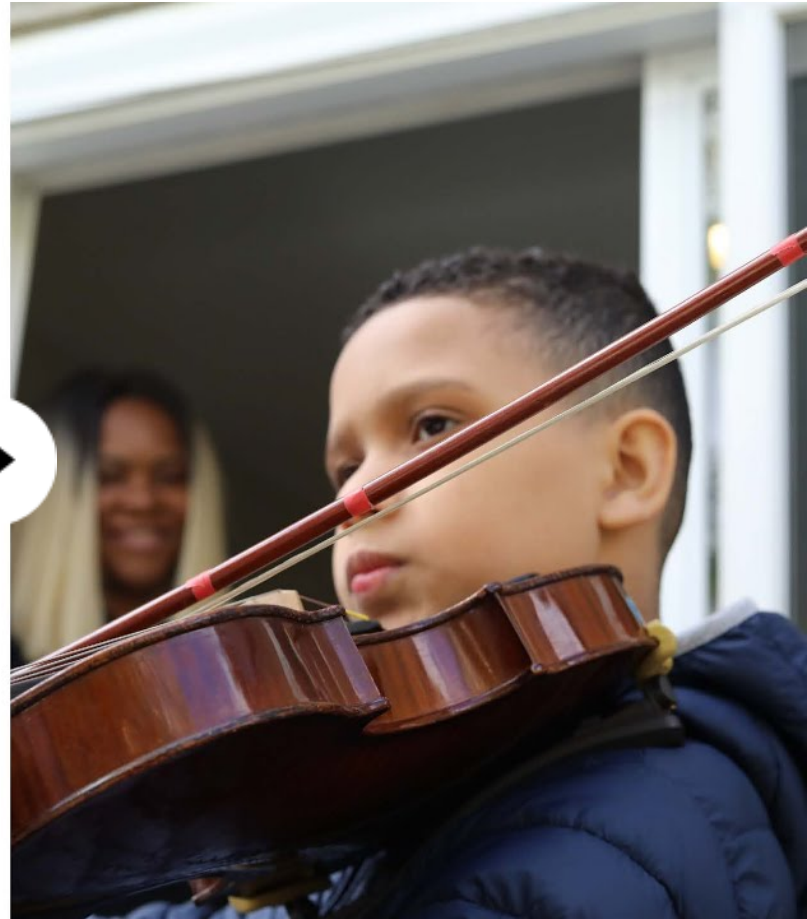




CaLABLE 101

Everything you need to know about
CaLABLE for 2025

January 22, 2025



CaLABLE overview page and fact sheets are now available in multiple languages

CaLABLE now has an [overview page](#) featuring CaLABLE information in Farsi, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese. We also have fact sheets available in these languages.

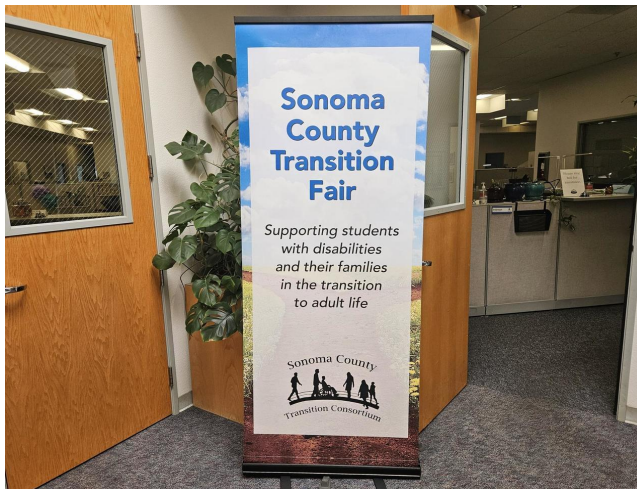
[Download factsheets](#)



Join the conversation on social media



Anne at the Special Needs Planning Symposium

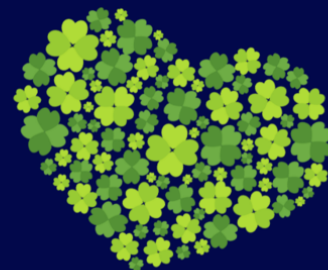


Madeline at the Sonoma County Transition Fair

Upcoming CalABLE Events

- [Financial Family ReUnion Summit](#): February 28 in San Francisco
- [LA Abilities Expo](#): March 7-9 in Los Angeles
- [EGUSD Resource Fair & BBQ for Special Education Families](#): March 12 in Elk Grove
- [CalABLE Board Meeting](#): March 18 in Sacramento
- [Disability Rights California Gala](#): March 26 in Sacramento
- [Academy of Special Needs Planners National Conference](#): March 27-29 in San Diego
- [2nd Annual Butte County Parent University & Resource Fair](#): April 12 in Chico

*And Have a Happy March,
The CalABLE Team*



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Executive Director Report



Q4 2024

March 18, 2025

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Significant CalABLE Updates

- Developing key partnerships to connect with the disability community
- Overview webpages and one-page flyers have been translated into ten languages
- Budget Change Proposal included in the Governor's Proposed Budget for 2026 eligibility expansion support
- Account growth and contributions significantly outpaced expectations

Program Dashboard – Overview

Metric	Q4 2024	Quarter-over-Quarter Growth	Year-over-Year Growth
Funded Accounts	13,058	5.7%	24.0%
New Accounts	868	12.1%	51.5%
Total Assets	\$172,273,902	6.5%	35.4%
Average Balance	\$13,193	0.7%	9.1%
Fee Revenue	\$97,390	5.3%	42.8%
Website Visits	53,865	-8.4%	115.5%
Contributions	\$17,791,204	44.7%	34.0%
Distributions	\$6,029,001	1.4%	30.4%
Prepaid Card Uses	21,192	5.6%	103.9%
Prepaid Card Spending	\$1,141,785	14.5%	98.0%

Program Dashboard – Growth Across 2024

Metric	2023	Growth	2024
New Accounts	1,978	+49%	2,942
Net Growth in Total Assets	\$37,628,237	+20%	\$44,992,167
Contributions	\$44,741,406	+31%	\$58,712,969
Distributions	\$17,336,312	+37%	\$23,719,415
Fee Revenue	\$278,816	+29%	\$358,371

2024 was a banner year for CalABLE!

Program Access Update

Translated Materials Launched!

In addition to English and Spanish, CalABLE materials are now available in:

- Chinese (both Simplified and Traditional)
- Farsi
- Hmong
- Japanese
- Korean
- Russian
- Simplified Chinese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Traditional Chinese
- Vietnamese

CalABLE助力殘障人士的財務安全與獨立

English | Español | 广州话 [廣州話] | 普通话 [普通話] | Tiếng Việt | Tagalog | 한국어 [韓國語] | فارسی | Ius Hmoob | 日本語 | Русский

什麼是CalABLE?

CalABLE是加利福尼亞州為殘障人士設立的稅收優惠儲蓄與投資方案。CalABLE允許受益人在八個專業管理的投資組合中每年最多儲蓄\$19,000，且用於符合條件的支出的投資收益免稅。此外，領取社會安全金（SSI）的受益人在維持SSI福利的情況下，最多可儲蓄\$100,000。帳戶可由殘障人士本人或其代表人開設和管理。擁有CalABLE帳戶，您即可為未來儲蓄，並為終身財務獨立做準備。

 CalABLE賦權

CalABLE賦權

CalABLE has launched overview webpages in each language as well as one-pagers that can be distributed in hard copy or as .pdfs. Materials are being shared with partner organizations and will be refined over time.

2026 Eligibility Expansion Update

Budget Change Proposal

The Governor's Proposed Budget includes an AGPA position and associated funding to support the 2026 expansion in eligibility.

Current federal law allows for individuals with disabilities that started before age 26 to open ABLÉ accounts. Next year, this will expand to include those with disabilities that started before age 46. This is projected to increase the number of CalABLE-eligible persons by half while also making CalABLE's outreach efforts more complex.

The AGPA will spearhead marketing, outreach, and partnership efforts for this new audience of persons who acquire disabilities as adults.

Expanded eligibility will include disabilities that stem from:

- Vehicular and occupational injuries
- Conditions with later onset or progressive impairment
- Illnesses that are contracted
- Military service

Legislative Updates

The Treasurer's Office is supporting two bills to improve CalABLE:

AB 1076

AB 1076 would do the following:

- Provide clear authority and greater flexibility for CalABLE to receive philanthropic support
- Allow for CalKIDS accounts to be rolled over into CalABLE accounts for individuals with disabilities who may not be receiving a higher education
- Includes information about CalABLE on tax return forms

AB 984

AB 984 would make contributions into a CalABLE account tax deductible, helping beneficiaries save for themselves and making it easier for loved ones to provide support

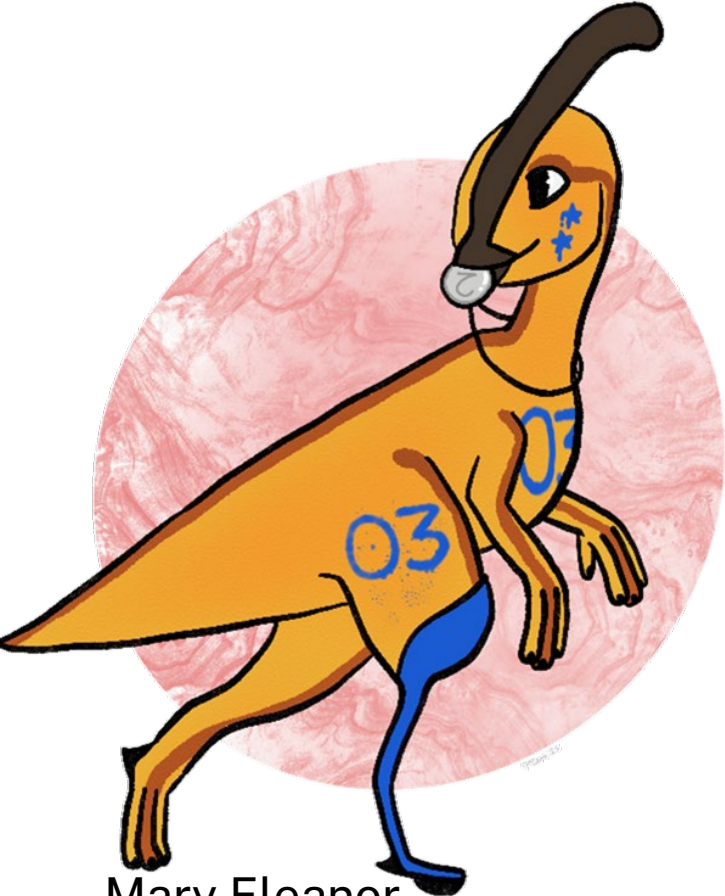
Express Yourself Art Contest



Attached is a drawing I made with a mouth stylus, using a digital canvas, with digital brushes. This is as close as I can get to “painting”, as I’m paralyzed from the neck down. This drawing depicts myself, happy, with my wheelchair, representing CalAble, and how it has added color to my future.

-Rogelio

Express Yourself – More Art Submissions



Mary Eleanor



Ryan



Casey, on behalf of Kim

2025 LA Abilities Expo – March 7-9

CalABLE had a big presence at the LA Abilities Expo!

- CalABLE was a highlighted sponsor for the Expo, coordinating with the Expo team on advertisements, email and social media outreach, displays, a dedicated CalABLE registration page, and much more
- Treasurer Ma conducted the ribbon-cutting ceremony and toured the Expo
- CalABLE hosted two workshops for attendees to learn more about the program
- The CalABLE booth had a live enrollment station, with onsite help from Vestwell to help people create accounts
- CalABLE launched a promotional campaign for Expo attendees to jumpstart their savings

CalABLE is California's savings and investment plan for people with disabilities.

Save without impacting benefits

Grow tax-free investments for your future

*Spend your money anytime, anywhere
(like at the [LA Abilities Expo!](#))*



How to claim your \$50:

- Visit CalABLE.ca.gov
- Click "Open an account"
- Complete the enrollment process
- Fund the account with \$25
- Enter the Promo Code: **EXPO2025**

Get started at
CalABLE.ca.gov

Promo Code:
EXPO2025



2025 LA Abilities Expo – Special Thanks

Special thanks to the many, many individuals who helped CalABLE make an impact at the Abilities Expo.

- Treasurer Ma
- STO's External Affairs, Communications, Scholarshare, Legislative, and Executive teams
- Vestwell
- Raccoon Media, the leaders behind the Abilities Expo
- CalABLE ambassadors Armand, Hector, Jennifer, Miguel, and Tianni
- The CalABLE team, including our winter UC Center Sacramento intern, Emily
- And especially Madeline Handy, who made everything happen

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Attachment A
Assembly Bill 984 (Nguyen)

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CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER FIONA MA

AB 984 (Nguyen) Personal income taxes: deductions: CalABLE contributions

SUMMARY

AB 984 will allow for state tax deductions on contributions made to CalABLE savings account. It would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

BACKGROUND

Many individuals living with disabilities receive means-tested public benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as a critical support to maintain basic necessities. Prior to 2014, individuals receiving these benefits could not save above \$2,000 in their bank account, as federal law would strip them of their vital public benefits. This fear kept millions of Californians with disabilities from living independently or building financial security in the form of a modest rainy-day fund. In 2014, the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) was enacted by Congress to authorize states to create ABLE programs, allowing eligible individuals with disabilities to establish tax-advantaged savings accounts. In 2015, SB 324 (Pavley) and AB 449 (Irwin) established the CalABLE Program, which administers the ABLE Act in California. With ABLE accounts, individuals can have more than \$2,000 in savings without affecting public benefit eligibility, allowing them to save up to \$19,000 per year and up to \$100,000 total without disrupting their SSI. Funds from these accounts can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses, which can include basic living expenses, housing, education and much more. Currently, 47 states and the District of Columbia have ABLE programs in operation, in addition to California.

THE PROBLEM

While CalABLE beneficiaries are able to save more than the standard maximum of \$2,000 before affecting their SSI payments, current restrictions on

income and limitations on financial independence continue to make it difficult to save, even with a CalABLE account. This is an especially significant burden to lower-income beneficiaries, a population that makes up 71 percent of CalABLE account holders. To counter this, 23 states offer tax deductions or tax credits on deposits made into their ABLE accounts. These deductions and credits help ABLE account holders save for themselves and plan for the future. Additionally, these deductions make it easier for supportive loved ones to contribute – otherwise, they would be paying taxes on money they gift to a beneficiary.

THE SOLUTION

AB 984 would bring California law in alignment with much of the nation by allowing state tax deductions on contributions made to CalABLE accounts. This would support CalABLE beneficiaries by making it easier to contribute to their own accounts, and encouraging their loved ones to contribute to their wellbeing.

SUPPORT

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma (sponsor)

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ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 984

Introduced by Assembly Member Nguyen

February 20, 2025

An act to amend Section 17072 of, and to add and repeal Section 17208 of, the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 984, as introduced, Nguyen. Personal income taxes: deductions: CalABLE contributions.

Existing federal law, the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 (ABLE Act), encourages and assists individuals and families to save private funds for the purpose of supporting eligible individuals with disabilities to maintain their health, independence, and quality of life by excluding from gross income distributions used for qualified disability expenses by a beneficiary of a qualified ABLE program established and maintained by a state, as specified.

Existing law establishes in this state the Qualified ABLE Program, administered by the California ABLE Act Board, for purposes of implementing the federal ABLE Act.

Existing law, the Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, conforms to the exclusions from gross income provided under federal income tax law provisions relating to the ABLE Act, as those exclusions read in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. The Personal Income Tax Law, in modified conformity with federal income tax laws, allows various deductions from gross income in computing adjusted gross income under that law, including deductions for payments to individual

retirement accounts, alimony payments, and interest on educational loans.

This bill, for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2031, would allow a deduction under the Personal Income Tax Law in computing adjusted gross income in an amount equal to the amount contributed by specified taxpayers during the taxable year to a CalABLE account.

Existing law requires a bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain, among other things, specific goals the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements.

This bill would include additional information required for any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17072 of the Revenue and Taxation Code
2 is amended to read:

3 17072. (a) Section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code, relating
4 to adjusted gross income defined, shall apply, except as otherwise
5 provided.

6 (b) Section 62(a)(2)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code, relating
7 to certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers,
8 shall not apply.

9 (c) Section 62(a)(21) of the Internal Revenue Code, relating to
10 attorneys fees relating to awards to whistleblowers, shall not apply.

11 (d) *For each taxable year beginning on or after January 1,*
12 *2026, and before January 1, 2031, Section 62(a) of the Internal*
13 *Revenue Code, relating to general rule, is modified to provide that*
14 *the deduction under Section 17208 shall be allowed in determining*
15 *adjusted gross income.*

16 SEC. 2. Section 17208 is added to the Revenue and Taxation
17 Code, to read:

18 17208. (a) For each taxable year beginning on or after January
19 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2031, there shall be allowed as a
20 deduction an amount equal to the amount contributed during the
21 taxable year by a taxpayer to a CalABLE account established

1 pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 4875) of
2 Division 4.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

3 (b) For purposes of Section 41, the Legislature finds and declares
4 all of the following:

5 (1) The objective of this section is to increase the amount
6 contributed to CalABLE accounts and to help people with
7 disabilities and their families prepare for the future.

8 (2) The Franchise Tax Board shall submit a report, on or before
9 January 1, 2031, to the Legislature that shall include, but is not
10 limited to, the amount of deductions allowed to CalABLE
11 contributors pursuant to this section, and findings and declarations
12 relating to the goals of the deduction. The report shall be submitted
13 in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

14 (3) The success of this section shall be measured by calculating
15 the average of the contributions made during for the taxable year
16 beginning on or after January 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2027,
17 and each subsequent taxable year, to determine if there is an
18 increase in contributions per year.

19 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until December 1,
20 2031, and as of that date is repealed.

21 SEC. 3. This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of
22 Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into
23 immediate effect.

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Attachment B
Assembly Bill 1076 (Addis)

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CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER FIONA MA

AB 1076 (Addis) Qualified ABLE Program: CalABLE accounts: funding.

SUMMARY

AB 1076 creates clear statutory authority to allow CalABLE to accept philanthropic funds and use them for marketing and seed funding; allows funds to rollover from a CalKIDS account into a CalABLE account; and provides CalABLE information to all California taxpayers when they receive a tax return, while allowing tax refunds to be used to fund a CalABLE account.

BACKGROUND

Many individuals living with disabilities receive means-tested public benefits like Supplemental Security Income as a critical support to maintain basic necessities. Prior to 2014, individuals receiving these benefits could not save above \$2,000 in their bank account, as federal law would strip them of their vital public benefits.

In 2014, the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) was enacted by Congress to authorize states to create ABLE programs, allowing eligible individuals with disabilities to establish tax-advantaged savings accounts.

In 2015, SB 324 (Pavley) and AB 449 (Irwin) established the CalABLE Program, which administers the ABLE Act in California. With ABLE accounts, individuals can have more than \$2,000 in savings without affecting public benefit eligibility, allowing them to save up to \$19,000 per year and up to \$100,000 total without disrupting their SSI. Funds from these accounts can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses, which can include basic living expenses, housing, education and much more. Currently, 47 states and the District of Columbia have ABLE programs in operation, in addition to California.

THE PROBLEM

CalABLE has limited resources to support outreach and help Californians with disabilities save for their futures. This has been a significant challenge as more than a million Californians are eligible for CalABLE accounts but only a small fraction have one due to lack or difficulty setting aside money to create an account. Thus, to better support the disability community, CalABLE needs to connect with more persons with disabilities and the people who support them. At present, CalABLE lacks a mechanism to provide information to the state population at large, particularly in a financial context.

Additionally, CalKIDS accounts must be used for qualified higher education expenses, with the goal of investing in students' futures. However, children with disabilities are disproportionately less likely to continue education after high school. At present, there is no mechanism for CalKIDS funds to support the long-term needs of children with disabilities who do not have higher education expenses.

THE SOLUTION

AB 1076 allows CalABLE to solicit philanthropic support and use donated funds for marketing and seed funding, providing a way for CalABLE can bridge the information gap while also helping prospective account holders to start saving. Further AB 1076 provides a clear authority to the public, especially the disability community, that funds held in CalKIDS can be transferred into a CalABLE accounts for equal benefit.

SUPPORT

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma (sponsor)

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ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1076

Introduced by Assembly Member Addis

February 20, 2025

An act to amend Section 69996.3 of the Education Code, to amend Section 19304 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and to amend Section 4877 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Qualified ABLE Program, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1076, as introduced, Addis. Qualified ABLE Program: CalABLE accounts: funding.

(1) Existing federal law, the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 (ABLE Act), encourages and assists individuals and families to save private funds for the purpose of supporting eligible individuals with disabilities to maintain their health, independence, and quality of life by excluding from gross income distributions used for qualified disability expenses by a beneficiary of a qualified ABLE program established and maintained by a state, as specified.

Existing law establishes the Qualified ABLE Program for purposes of implementing the federal ABLE Act in this state, and creates the California ABLE Program Trust with the purposes, powers, and duties of the trust to be vested in and exercised by the California ABLE Act Board. Existing law requires the board to segregate the moneys coming into the ABLE program trust into 2 funds: the program fund, which is continuously appropriated, for specified purposes of the act, and the administrative fund, which is available upon appropriation by the Legislature for administration of the act. Existing law requires all

moneys paid by designated beneficiaries or eligible individuals in connection with ABLE accounts to be deposited, as received, into the program fund, promptly invested, and accounted for separately.

This bill would authorize the California ABLE Act Board to additionally accept grants, gifts, appropriations, and other moneys from a philanthropic entity, and would specify that the program can receive legislative appropriations. The bill would authorize the board to delegate specific amounts of grants, gifts, legislative appropriations, or other moneys into the administrative fund or the program fund at its discretion, and would allow the board to use those moneys to encourage eligible individuals to create an ABLE account or maximize account use, including through offering financial incentives in an amount determined by the board. The bill would authorize the board to adopt eligibility criteria for individuals to receive financial incentives, and would require the financial incentives be provided directly to the designated beneficiary or their authorized legal representative. By authorizing new uses of moneys in a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

(2) Existing law requires the Franchise Tax Board to include, on a taxpayer's form instructions for filing a return, information about the ability of a taxpayer to directly deposit a portion of their refund into the Golden State Scholarshare College Savings Trust, as specified.

This bill would additionally require the Franchise Tax Board to include, on a taxpayer's form instructions for filing a return, information about the ability of a taxpayer to directly deposit a portion of their refund into the California ABLE Program Trust.

(3) Existing law establishes the California Kids Investment and Development Savings (KIDS) Program, under the administration of the Scholarshare Investment Board, for purposes of expanding access to higher education through savings.

This bill would authorize the Scholarshare Investment Board to establish a process to allow a beneficiary, to the extent permitted under law, to transfer moneys designated for the beneficiary in a KIDS Account into a qualifying ABLE account.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 69996.3 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

3 69996.3. (a) (1) Each child born on or after a date determined
4 by the board pursuant to paragraph (2) who is a California resident
5 at the time of birth is eligible for the program.

6 (2) The date designated by the board for which eligibility
7 commences shall be no later than July 1, 2022.

8 (b) No later than 90 days after a birth certificate is registered
9 for a child described in subdivision (a), the State Department of
10 Public Health shall provide the board with identifiable birth data
11 for the child in a file format as defined by the board. The birth data
12 shall include the child's name and birth date and the name and
13 contact information of each parent of the child, including the
14 parent's street address and, if provided to the department, the
15 parent's mobile telephone number and email address. In addition,
16 upon request by the board, the department shall include, in the
17 birth data it provides to the board, information collected pursuant
18 to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section
19 102426 of the Health and Safety Code. The department may
20 provide additional identifiable birth data to the board, upon request,
21 and upon a determination by the State Registrar, in consultation
22 with the board, that the data is necessary for administration of the
23 program. To the extent permitted by state and federal law, the
24 department shall provide amended birth record information of a
25 child to the board in order to assist the board in verifying a legal
26 name change of the child, and any other information necessary,
27 for the administration of the program. The department is not
28 required to provide the board amended birth record information
29 of a child that would reveal information that was sealed by statute
30 or court order. The birth data is confidential and shall not be
31 disclosed except as necessary for the program. No more than 90
32 days after receiving the birth data from the department, the board
33 shall notify at least one parent of each eligible child about the
34 program. The notification shall include information on all of the
35 following:

36 (1) How the parent may opt out of the program.

37 (2) The KIDS Account opened for the child pursuant to
38 subdivision (f).

1 (3) How the parent may establish a separate account pursuant
2 to Article 19 (commencing with Section 69980) and additional
3 financial incentives provided pursuant to that article.

4 (c) The board shall make a child’s designated balance in a KIDS
5 Account viewable by the child’s parent or legal guardian through
6 a secured internet link.

7 (d) The board shall establish rules and regulations for a program
8 recipient child, and the child’s parents or legal guardians, to be
9 notified of the moneys deposited and accrued in the child’s KIDS
10 Account, and rules and regulations regarding the establishment
11 and operation of program components, including, but not limited
12 to, the claims process, necessary documentation, deadlines for the
13 claims, an appeals procedure, and any forfeiture procedures. A
14 KIDS Account recipient child and each of the child’s parents or
15 legal guardians shall be informed of the establishment of the child’s
16 KIDS Account, provided information on how the parent or legal
17 guardian may establish a separate account pursuant to Article 19
18 (commencing with Section 69980), and provided information on
19 opportunities for financial incentives provided pursuant to that
20 article.

21 (e) The board shall translate program notifications and
22 information provided pursuant to subdivisions (b) to (d), inclusive,
23 into languages pursuant to Section 7295.2 of the Government
24 Code.

25 (f) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the board shall
26 establish one or more accounts and shall make a separately
27 accounted-for seed deposit from the fund into a KIDS Account
28 established within an account in an amount determined by the
29 board. Each seed deposit shall be designated for a particular child
30 for whom the board receives birth data pursuant to subdivision
31 (b), if no parent or legal guardian has opted that child out of the
32 program. Moneys in a KIDS Account designated for a child,
33 including any investment earnings attributed to the amount of the
34 child’s seed deposit since the date of the deposit as calculated by
35 the board, shall be used for the purpose of providing awards for
36 qualified higher education expenses associated with the attendance
37 of the child at an eligible institution of higher education. Before
38 the 2023–24 fiscal year, each seed deposit shall be at least
39 twenty-five dollars (\$25). Commencing with the 2023–24 fiscal
40 year, each seed deposit shall be at least one hundred dollars (\$100).

1 The board may provide additional financial incentives designated
2 for a child into a KIDS Account if the parent or legal guardian of
3 the child engages with the KIDS Account by verifying receipt of
4 information provided pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b),
5 establishing a separate account pursuant to Article 19 (commencing
6 with Section 69980), or engaging with the KIDS Account by other
7 means approved by the board.

8 (g) Upon the student self-certifying that they are enrolled at an
9 institution of higher education and that they have resided in the
10 state for at least one year immediately preceding the payment of
11 qualified higher education expenses on the student's behalf, the
12 board shall make a payment to that institution in an amount
13 determined by the student or their parent or legal guardian, which
14 may include the total or a partial amount of the seed deposit,
15 enhanced deposit, if applicable, and any additional financial
16 incentives designated for the child pursuant to subdivision (f), plus
17 any investment earnings attributed to that amount since the date
18 of that deposit as calculated by the board, for qualified higher
19 education expenses associated with the child's attendance at that
20 institution. If the child has no account balance with the institution,
21 the institution may distribute funds received for the child pursuant
22 to this subdivision directly to the child for the purpose of paying
23 the child's qualified higher education expenses.

24 (h) Subject to available money in the fund, the board may
25 provide additional incentives from the fund for children
26 participating in the program, including, but not limited to,
27 incentives targeting low-income households.

28 (i) (1) Subject to available funding, a parent or legal guardian,
29 residing in California, of a child who meets the criteria in paragraph
30 (2) may apply to the board to enroll the child into the program.
31 Subject to available funding, the enrollee shall be eligible for any
32 incentives described in subdivision (h), as applicable, but is not
33 eligible for a seed deposit.

34 (2) The child is a current California resident under six years of
35 age who was both of the following:

36 (A) Born on or after the date designated by the board for which
37 eligibility commences.

38 (B) Not a California resident at the time of birth.

39 (j) (1) A KIDS Account established pursuant to this article, and
40 its investment earnings, shall remain assets of, and owned by, the

1 state until used for the payment of qualified higher education
 2 expenses at an institution of higher education, and funds shall
 3 remain invested until they are used for the purposes authorized by
 4 this article or until the recipient achieves 26 years of age, whichever
 5 occurs first. If a beneficiary does not use any portion, or all, of the
 6 moneys intended for the beneficiary in a KIDS Account for a
 7 qualified higher education expense for any reason, including the
 8 death or disability of the beneficiary, before the beneficiary turns
 9 26 years of age, all contributions made for the beneficiary into the
 10 KIDS Account and any earnings from those moneys shall be
 11 forfeited and deposited into the fund for the program.

12 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), subject to available funding,
 13 the board may establish an appeal process to allow a beneficiary
 14 to use the moneys designated for the beneficiary in a KIDS
 15 Account after the beneficiary turns 26 years of age.

16 (3) *The board may establish a process to allow a beneficiary,*
 17 *to the extent permitted under federal law, to transfer moneys*
 18 *designated for the beneficiary in a KIDS Account into a qualifying*
 19 *ABLE account established pursuant to Chapter 15 (commencing*
 20 *with Section 4875) of Division 4.5 of the Welfare and Institutions*
 21 *Code.*

22 ~~(3)~~

23 (4) Moneys, less applicable penalties, collected pursuant to
 24 Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code not used within the time
 25 period described in paragraph (1) shall revert to the fund after the
 26 payment of any amount determined to be due to the federal
 27 government as a result of the reversion.

28 ~~(4)~~

29 (5) All contributions made into a KIDS Account for a child who
 30 has opted out of the program pursuant to subdivision (b), including
 31 any investment earnings attributed to the amount of the child's
 32 seed deposit since the date of the deposit as calculated by the board,
 33 shall be forfeited and deposited into the fund for the program in a
 34 timely manner.

35 (k) The board shall encourage each parent and legal guardian
 36 of a beneficiary, including each parent and legal guardian of a
 37 child who applies to enroll the child into the program as a
 38 beneficiary pursuant to subdivision (i), to establish a separate
 39 account pursuant to Article 19 (commencing with Section 69980).

1 The board shall provide assistance on how to establish the separate
2 account.

3 (l) The board may use up to 5 percent of state appropriations
4 provided for purposes of the program for administrative costs.
5 Unless otherwise specified in the annual Budget Act, this
6 subdivision shall not apply to any one-time or ongoing local
7 assistance funds first appropriated in support of the program
8 beginning in the 2021–22 fiscal year.

9 (m) It is the intent of the Legislature that both of the following
10 occur:

11 (1) The State Department of Public Health and the board share
12 the information described in subdivision (b) in a manner that
13 promotes data privacy and security.

14 (2) The State Department of Public Health and the board enter
15 into memoranda of understanding or participation agreements for
16 data sharing purposes, as necessary, for the implementation and
17 operation of this article.

18 SEC. 2. Section 19304 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is
19 amended to read:

20 19304. (a) The Franchise Tax Board shall revise taxpayer form
21 instructions, for returns required to be filed, pursuant to Article 1
22 (commencing with Section 18501) of Chapter 2, to include
23 information about the ability of a taxpayer to directly deposit a
24 portion of the refund into the Golden State Scholarshare College
25 Savings ~~Trust~~. *Trust or into the California ABLE Program Trust.*

26 (b) The Scholarshare Investment Board shall provide the
27 Franchise Tax Board with a description of the Golden State
28 Scholarshare College Savings Trust on or before a specified date
29 provided by the Franchise Tax Board. The length of the description
30 shall be five lines or less.

31 (c) *The California ABLE Act Board shall provide the Franchise*
32 *Tax Board with a description of the California ABLE Program*
33 *Trust on or before a specified date provided by the Franchise Tax*
34 *Board. The length of the description shall be five lines or less.*

35 (e)

36 (d) The Franchise Tax Board shall revise the taxpayer form
37 instructions in the most cost-effective manner.

38 (d)

1 (e) For purposes of this section, “Golden State Scholarshare
2 College Savings Trust” has the meaning set forth in subdivision
3 (e) of Section 69980 of the Education Code.

4 (f) For purposes of this section, “California ABLE Program
5 Trust” has the meaning set forth in Section 4875 of the Welfare
6 and Institutions Code.

7 SEC. 3. Section 4877 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
8 amended to read:

9 4877. (a) There is hereby created an instrumentality of the
10 State of California to be known as the California ABLE Program
11 Trust.

12 (b) The purposes, powers, and duties of the California ABLE
13 Program Trust are vested in, and shall be exercised by, the board.

14 (c) The board, in the capacity of trustee, shall have the power
15 and authority to do all of the following:

- 16 (1) Sue and be sued.
- 17 (2) (A) Make and enter into contracts necessary for the
18 administration of the ABLE program trust, and engage personnel,
19 including consultants, actuaries, managers, counsel, and auditors,
20 as necessary for the purpose of rendering professional, managerial,
21 and technical assistance and advice.

22 (B) Subdivision (a) of Section 10365.5 of the Public Contract
23 Code shall not apply to a contract with a program consultant for
24 the qualified ABLE program. Any contract with a program
25 consultant for the qualified ABLE program that would have been
26 prohibited by that subdivision shall be publicly disclosed in a
27 manner specified by the board prior to entering into the contract.

28 (3) Adopt a corporate seal and change and amend it from time
29 to time.

30 (4) Cause moneys in the program fund to be held and invested
31 and reinvested.

32 (5) (A) Accept any grants, gifts, legislative appropriations, and
33 other moneys from any unit of federal, state, or local government
34 or any other person, firm, partnership, philanthropic entity, or
35 corporation for deposit to the administrative fund or the program
36 fund.

37 (B) The board may delegate, to the extent permitted under
38 federal law, specific amounts of grants, gifts, legislative
39 appropriations, or other moneys to be divided or wholly deposited
40 into the administrative fund or the program fund accordingly. The

1 *board may also target specific subgroups of eligible individuals*
2 *provided that they are not limited in such a way that would conflict*
3 *with the intent of the Legislature in establishing the program or*
4 *other applicable law.*

5 (C) *Grants, gifts, legislative appropriations, and other moneys*
6 *may be used, to the extent permitted under federal law, to*
7 *encourage eligible individuals to create an account or maximize*
8 *account use, including financial incentives deposited into accounts*
9 *and efforts to raise awareness about the program. The board may*
10 *partner with other public, private, or nonprofit entities to facilitate*
11 *or administer such moneys.*

12 (i) *The board may adopt eligibility criteria for individuals to*
13 *receive financial incentives in accordance with this subparagraph.*
14 *Eligibility criteria may include, but is not limited to, opening a*
15 *new account, depositing money into an account, establishing a*
16 *reoccurring deposit, participating in financial literacy or other*
17 *education opportunities, or being a state resident.*

18 (ii) *Financial incentives shall be provided directly to the*
19 *designated beneficiary or their authorized legal representative*
20 *that meets the eligibility criteria, as determined by the board.*

21 (iii) *The amount of any financial incentives shall be at the*
22 *discretion of the board. Specific financial incentive amounts shall*
23 *be communicated to the public and shall be applied equally to the*
24 *designated beneficiaries identified as eligible for each specific*
25 *financial incentive opportunity. Information including eligibility*
26 *and actions needed to earn financial incentives shall be posted on*
27 *the program internet website.*

28 (6) *Enter into agreements with designated beneficiaries or*
29 *eligible individuals to establish and maintain an ABLE account.*

30 (7) *Make provisions for the payment of costs of administration*
31 *and operation of the ABLE program trust.*

32 (8) *Carry out the duties and obligations of the ABLE program*
33 *trust pursuant to this chapter and the federal ABLE Act pursuant*
34 *to Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code and federal*
35 *regulations issued pursuant to that code, and have any other powers*
36 *as may be reasonably necessary for the effectuation of the purposes,*
37 *objectives, and provisions of this chapter.*

38 (9) *Carry out studies and projections in order to advise*
39 *designated beneficiaries or eligible individuals regarding present*
40 *and estimated future qualified disability expenses and the levels*

1 of financial participation in the ABLE program trust required in
2 order to assist designated beneficiaries or eligible individuals.

3 (10) Participate in any other way in any federal, state, or local
4 governmental program for the benefit of the ABLE program trust.

5 (11) Promulgate, impose, and collect administrative fees and
6 charges in connection with transactions of the ABLE program
7 trust, and provide for reasonable service charges, including
8 penalties for cancellations.

9 (12) Set minimum and maximum investment levels.

10 (13) Administer the funds of the ABLE program trust.

11 (14) Procure insurance against any loss in connection with the
12 property, assets, or activities of the ABLE program trust.

13 (15) Procure insurance indemnifying any member of the board
14 from personal loss or liability resulting from a member's action
15 or inaction as a member of the board.

16 (d) The Treasurer shall, on behalf of the board, appoint an
17 executive director, who shall not be a member of the board and
18 who shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The Treasurer shall
19 determine the duties of the executive director and other staff as
20 necessary and set ~~his or her~~ *their* compensation. The board may
21 authorize the executive director to enter into contracts on behalf
22 of the board or conduct any business necessary for the efficient
23 operation of the board.

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Attachment C
BCP Eligibility Expansion Outreach

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Fiscal Year 2025-26	Business Unit Number 0981	Department California Achieving a Better Life Experience Act Board
Hyperion Budget Request Name 0981-002-BCP-2025-GB		Relevant Program or Subprogram 0895- California Achieving a Better Life Experience Act Board

Budget Request Title
Eligibility Expansion Outreach

Budget Request Summary

The California Achieving a Better Life Experience Board (CalABLE) requests \$182,000 General Fund ongoing for the addition of one Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) in response to federal changes in age eligibility. The AGPA would allow CalABLE to develop a marketing, outreach, and public education program for the hundreds of thousands of newly eligible people with disabilities.

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP) <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer Bill Language <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Bill Language <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed	
Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.</i>	Department CIO	Date

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No. _____ **Project Approval Document:** _____
Approval Date: _____ **Total Project Cost:** _____

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? Yes No
Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By Thomas Martin	Date 12/20/2024	Reviewed By Karma Manni	Date 12/20/2024
Department Director Thomas Martin	Date 12/20/2024	Agency Secretary Patrick Henning	Date 12/20/2024

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: Capital Outlay ITCU FSCU OSAE Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst Greg Bruss	Date submitted to the Legislature 1/10/2025
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A. Problem Statement

CalABLE requests \$182,000 General Fund ongoing for the addition of one AGPA in response to federal changes in age eligibility. The AGPA would allow CalABLE to develop a marketing, outreach, and public education program for the hundreds of thousands of newly eligible people with disabilities.

Since 2018, CalABLE has provided low-cost, tax-advantaged savings and investment accounts for individuals with disabilities. CalABLE is California's implementation of the federal Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, signed into law in 2014. The purpose of ABLE accounts is to allow eligible individuals with disabilities to save and grow their wealth without affecting access to benefits. Individuals can make nondeductible cash contributions to a CalABLE account owned by themselves or by other eligible persons.

Funds in a CalABLE account are exempt from the standard means tests for state and federal benefits. For example, persons receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can typically have no more than \$2,000 in cash or savings, but funds in a CalABLE account are exempt up to \$100,000. Without a CalABLE account, it can be very difficult – if not impossible – for many individuals with disabilities to save for major living or disability expenses, such as a vehicle, a service animal, or a rental deposit. For account holders, CalABLE is a critical tool for greater independence, self-advocacy, and self-determination.

Any earnings on a CalABLE account are also exempt from state and federal taxes, provided that the account is used for the beneficiary's health, independence, or quality of life. This is important because, according to the National Disability Institute, people with disabilities spend 28 percent more on daily living expenses. Additionally, they are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, housing insecure, and/or underbanked – factors which can make it challenging for them to save and for CalABLE to connect with them.

To be eligible for a CalABLE account, an individual can be any age, but they must have a disability that began before the age of 26, and the disability must be listed as eligible for disability benefits by the Social Security Administration. This includes a broad set of developmental disorders, mental health, and physical conditions, requiring CalABLE to market to a wide range of Californians.

Because of changes in federal law, the number of eligible individuals will rise significantly. The ABLE Age Adjustment Act, signed in December 2022, will increase the maximum age of disability onset from 26 to 46 beginning in 2026. According to the National Disability Institute, the number of Americans eligible for an ABLE account will increase by 5.5 million. Within the eligible population, the number of veterans with service-connected disabilities will double, while recipients of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) will more than triple. In California, the National Disability Institute's projections reflect more than 700,000 new potential account holders – an increase of 50 percent.

At present, CalABLE has four total staff to run administrative and programmatic operations. There are two AGPAs dedicated to outreach, including one that specializes in Spanish-language communication. Because of CalABLE's limited staffing, the 50-percent increase in eligibility cannot be met with a 50-percent increase in outreach efforts within existing resources.

Resource History
(Dollars in thousands)

Program Budget	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Authorized Expenditures	\$1,089	\$1,220	\$1,215	\$1,441	\$1,462	\$1,466
Actual Expenditures	\$766	\$992	\$990	\$1,116	\$	\$1,466
Revenues	\$39	\$81	\$196	\$190	\$314	\$350
Authorized Positions	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
Filled Positions	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.8	4.0
Vacancies	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0

B. Justification

This proposal would expand California's efforts to serve provide a critical savings tool for individuals with disabilities. The age eligibility increase would allow nearly 800,000 more Californians to open CalABLE accounts, and the additional AGPA position is vital to that growth.

The population affected by the eligibility change is in stark contrast to CalABLE's current account holders. As of June 2024, three quarters of CalABLE beneficiaries have developmental/intellectual disabilities or congenital anomalies, and many of the other account holders have disabilities that started from birth or a very young age – effectively, lifelong disabilities. Meanwhile, disabilities that begin between the ages of 26 and 45 often stem from accidents, service-connected injuries, and progressive illnesses. Accordingly, these two populations generally have very different life experiences, support networks, and service needs. This affects how they or their loved ones interact with service providers and what resources they seek, if any.

Rather than marketing to the general public, the bulk of CalABLE's outreach is tied to other service providers. CalABLE works closely with other organizations like the Department of Developmental Services and the state's regional centers to connect with their clients. In most cases, these connections are with organizations that primarily or only support individuals with disabilities that begin at birth or during childhood. These individuals are often connected with service providers at a young age, and are often referred by schools, pediatricians, and other specialists.

By contrast, those who will be newly eligible will be less likely to receive programmatic services at all, let alone through one of CalABLE's partners. Many will receive healthcare for their disabilities through a medical office or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), but not a state or non-profit organization. While CalABLE will work with some existing partners like the Department of Rehabilitation and the State Independent Living Council, new outreach efforts and materials will be needed.

Half of CalABLE's current account holders are unemployed, and of those who are working, many work part time. CalABLE's future outreach will need to consider the higher expected levels of employment among the newly eligible, which will entail targeted marketing to both the individuals and their employers. This will be especially true for those adults who have a

sudden illness or injury and may be unable to continue working and keep their benefits without a CalABLE account.

Veterans represent another 2026 outreach target. CalABLE will need to work with veteran groups to identify eligible Californians and to tailor marketing to reflect their unique circumstances. Compared to current account holders, veterans will be far less likely to receive public benefits and more likely to use CalABLE accounts as a long-term savings platform. Connecting with veterans in particular will be challenging and a strain on CalABLE's limited staff.

An additional layer of complexity lies in the age range. To reiterate, CalABLE's current outreach focuses on disabilities that begin in early childhood, making it relatively easy to identify eligible populations. However, there are likely no providers that specifically target individuals whose disabilities start between 26 and 45. CalABLE's outreach efforts will be more complex, as staff will need to spend more time targeting a subset of adults within a broader population. For example, CalABLE can conduct outreach with a regional center to market to every client, as all clients have eligible disabilities by definition. However, CalABLE could not work with an organization to market to all adults with a traumatic brain injury, and would instead need to limit outreach to only those whose injuries occurred before the age of 46.

If this request is not approved, CalABLE would not be able to expand its marketing and outreach to fulfill its expanded mission. Without an additional position, CalABLE would likely have to limit its outreach to the complex population of newly eligible persons and instead focus on serving those who are already targeted by outreach efforts.

If approved, this proposal would provide a vital staffing resource for CalABLE to fulfill its mission. The AGPA would be responsible for leading outreach and marketing efforts for the newly eligible population. The AGPA would partner with employers, other government agencies, care providers, and nonprofit organizations, to connect with eligible adults. The AGPA would also develop targeted marketing strategies and materials that reflect the distinct and varying circumstances within this population. Finally, the AGPA would help CalABLE address the 50-percent increase in outreach volume given the growth in eligibility. These will all be ongoing needs, as the eligibility expansion is permanent and outreach will need to be conducted in perpetuity.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

This proposal would further the mission of CalABLE and the strategic goals of the State Treasurer's Office by supporting all individuals who become eligible for CalABLE accounts. Further, it would improve equity by supporting all members of the disability community, especially those with limited means, even if those disabilities begin in adulthood.

D. Outcomes and Accountability

This proposal would provide CalABLE with a valuable tool in improving outreach and account adoption. The proposed position is critical for ensuring CalABLE meets the federal intent of the ABLA Age Adjustment Act. While specific metrics are difficult to establish without the broader market understanding that this AGPA would help develop, the outreach efforts and outcomes would be reported to members of CalABLE's Board and to the public during board meetings.

E. Implementation Plan

April 2025 – Develop duty statement

May 2025 – Advertise position pending budget approval

June 2025 – – Conduct interviews, offer conditional appointments pending passage of the budget

July 2025 – or upon passage of the Budget Act – Start date for the position

August 2025 – Meet with prospective partner organizations

September 2025 – Finish developing targeted outreach and marketing materials

October 2025 – Begin formal outreach campaign to inform public about the eligibility expansion

January 2026 – Eligibility increase takes effect

June 2026 – Report early results of outreach efforts to CalABLE Board

F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

N/A

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

BCP Title: Eligibility Expansion Outreach

BR Name: 0981-002-BCP-2025-GB

Budget Request Summary

	FY25					
	CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
Personal Services						
Positions - Permanent	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Positions	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Salaries and Wages						
Earnings - Permanent	0	88	88	88	88	88
Total Salaries and Wages	\$0	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88
Total Staff Benefits	0	48	48	48	48	48
Total Personal Services	\$0	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136
Operating Expenses and Equipment						
5301 - General Expense	0	4	4	4	4	4
5302 - Printing	0	1	1	1	1	1
5304 - Communications	0	3	3	3	3	3
5306 - Postage	0	1	1	1	1	1
5320 - Travel: In-State	0	1	1	1	1	1
5322 - Training	0	1	1	1	1	1
5324 - Facilities Operation	0	6	6	6	6	6
5326 - Utilities	0	1	1	1	1	1
5340 - Consulting and Professional Services - Interdepartmental	0	15	15	15	15	15
5346 - Information Technology	0	6	6	6	6	6
5368 - Non-Capital Asset Purchases - Equipment	0	7	7	7	7	7
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	\$0	\$46	\$46	\$46	\$46	\$46
Total Budget Request	\$0	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182
Fund Summary						
Fund Source - State Operations						
0001 - General Fund	0	182	182	182	182	182
Total State Operations Expenditures	\$0	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182
Total All Funds	\$0	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182
Program Summary						
Program Funding						
0895 - California ABLE Act Board	0	182	182	182	182	182
Total All Programs	\$0	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182

Personal Services Details

Positions	Salary Information			CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
	Min	Mid	Max						
5393 - Assoc Govtl Program Analyst (Eff. 07-01-2025)				0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Positions				0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Salaries and Wages	CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4			
5393 - Assoc Govtl Program Analyst (Eff. 07-01-2025)	0	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
Total Salaries and Wages	\$0	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88	\$88
Staff Benefits									
5150350 - Health Insurance	0	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
5150450 - Medicare Taxation	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5150500 - OASDI	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
5150600 - Retirement - General	0	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
5150800 - Workers' Compensation	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Staff Benefits	\$0	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48
Total Personal Services	\$0	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136	\$136

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