**Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPs) Person-Supported Establishment Incentive**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Person-Supported Establishment Incentive Resource is to provide innovation coordinators (“IC”s) and provider agencies with detailed information and clear procedures for requesting the Person-Supported Establishment Incentive Payment. The MAPs program has developed a mechanism to reinforce the successful completion of Milestones for the MAP participants and makes a single payment available as a pass-through through a provider agency to the participant in the form of an Able Account for the successful completion of a series of MAPs Validated and Distinct milestones. This resource will provide specifics surrounding this incentive payment.

1. Definitions
2. **ABLE Account:** An ABLE account, also known as a 529 ABLE or 529A account, is a state-run savings program for eligible people with disabilities in the United States. Rules governing ABLE accounts are codified in Internal Revenue Code section 529A, which was enacted by the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014. With limitations, funds in an ABLE account are exempt from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid asset limit, and earnings are exempt from federal income tax.
3. **Incentive:** An annual bonus, incentive, or other payment of compensation, in addition to Base Pay, made or to be made regarding services rendered in any year or other period according to any bonus, incentive, profit-sharing, performance, discretionary pay, or similar agreement, policy, plan, program or arrangement of the Company or a Subsidiary, or any successor thereto.
4. **Qualified Disability Expense:** A qualified disability expense is related to the designated beneficiary's blindness or disability. Each person is unique, and the needs of the individual can vary depending on the disability, circumstances, and specific treatment.

**Examples Include:**

* 1. Education
  2. Housing
  3. Transportation
  4. Employment
  5. Training and Support/ Assistive Technology
  6. Personal Support Services
  7. Health, Prevention and Wellness
  8. Financial Management
  9. Administrative Services/Legal Fees
  10. Expenses for Oversight and Monitoring
  11. Funeral and Burial Expenses

1. **Background**:

After their three-year program, persons supported by MAPs will have acquired the skills to continue increasing their independence and accomplishing their personal goals. This may include but is not limited to enrolling in college or other post-secondary education programs, as well as exploring opportunities to live more independently, either on their own, with friends/partners, or with family members/natural supports. To assist persons supported by MAPs with pursuing these opportunities, they will be eligible to receive a one-time Establishment Incentive payable into an ABLE account to assist in those additional goals.

1. **Requirements for Establishment Incentive Payment:**

Persons who complete the MAPs program and achieve at least **6 MAPs Validated and Distinct milestones of the 11** available Milestones will be eligible for a one-time payment of $4,000 to deposit into an ABLE account. Once MAPs program completion and Milestone achievement have been verified by the Innovation Coordination Agency, a person will become eligible for the payment. DDA expects that funds deposited into a person’s ABLE account will be spent according to the criteria for a Qualified Disability Expense. However, once the deposit is made, it will be the responsibility of the person and/or their guardian (if applicable) to understand and fulfill the rules for ABLE expenditures, including reporting requirements, allowable expenses, and prohibited expenses. DDA will pass these funds through the appointed MAPs Provider agency so that the provider agency may help establish the ABLE account.

1. **More Information about ABLE Accounts**:

ABLE accounts can help people who became disabled before the age of 26 or their families pay for disability-related expenses. These expenses include housing, education, transportation, health, prevention and wellness, employment training and support, assistive technology, and personal support services. For more information on the utilization of ABLE Accounts, refer to the IRS website and State of TN Treasury website:

* [ABLE accounts: A valuable financial solution for people with disabilities |](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/able-accounts-a-valuable-financial-solution-for-people-with-disabilities#:~:text=States%20can%20offer%20ABLE%20accounts%20to%20help%20people,and%20support%2C%20assistive%20technology%20and%20personal%20support%20services.) Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
* [ABLE TN: Achieving a Better Life Experience](https://able.treasury.tn.gov/)