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## State Budget Update: Mental Health

In the 2024-25 state budget, Pennsylvania has put a strong focus on improving mental health care. We increased funding for mental health services by \$67.5 million, which is a 7.6% increase. This includes \$20 million specifically for county mental health funds to support resources like inpatient care, therapy, crisis help, and support for students' mental health in schools.

The budget also aims to keep and improve existing mental health services across the state. By investing in community programs and essential services like residential support, family help, outpatient care, and crisis aid, Pennsylvania is working to make sure people get the help they need early on, which can prevent more serious problems later. Pennsylvania continues to make Mental Health Funding one of its top priorities.



## Pennsylvanians with Disabilities are 'ABLE' to Save with PA ABLE

This Wednesday, Aug. 14, is the first-ever National ABLE Savings Day! Our state's PA ABLE program, like other ABLE programs across the country, gives individuals with disabilities a way to save money for the future without impacting important benefits like Medical Assistance (Medicaid) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

There are also great tax benefits for saving with PA ABLE, including:

- Contributions are deductible from PA state income taxes.
- Earnings and contributions grow tax-free.
- No taxes are owed for qualified withdrawals.
- Accounts aren't subject to the state inheritance tax.

Pennsylvanians with a qualifying disability can start saving with PAABLE today. There are seven savings and investment options to choose from. PA ABLE account owners, family and friends can contribute up to \$18,000 annually to a PA ABLE account. The savings can be used to pay for a wide variety of disability-related expenses including rent, groceries, health care, vehicle adaptations, assistive technology and more.

To celebrate ABLE Savings Day, PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity, PA ABLE experts at the Pennsylvania Treasury Department, and ABLE experts from around the country are hosting free webinars to help everyone understand what ABLE programs are and how they can start saving.

Upcoming webinars include:

- Monday, Aug. 12, at 2 p.m.: ABLE Accounts 101.
  - Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 6 p.m.: Learn About PA ABLE.
  - Wednesday, Aug. 14, at 2 p.m.: How Can Employers Promote ABLE as an Accessibility Tool?
  - Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 2 p.m.: I Have an ABLE Account, Now What?
- For more information about PAABLE, visit [PAABLE.gov](http://PAABLE.gov) or call 855-529-ABLE (2253).



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