

# Accessible Assets: Asset Building in the Disability Community

Washington State Asset Building Coalition:  
Survive and Thrive Building Assets, Strengthening  
Communities



# Shriver Center

- **The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law**
  - A national law and policy center that provides national leadership in identifying, developing and supporting innovative and collaborative approaches to achieve social and economic justice for low-income people.
- **Asset Opportunity Unit**
  - Takes action against poverty by advocating for policies that expand asset-building opportunities for all.

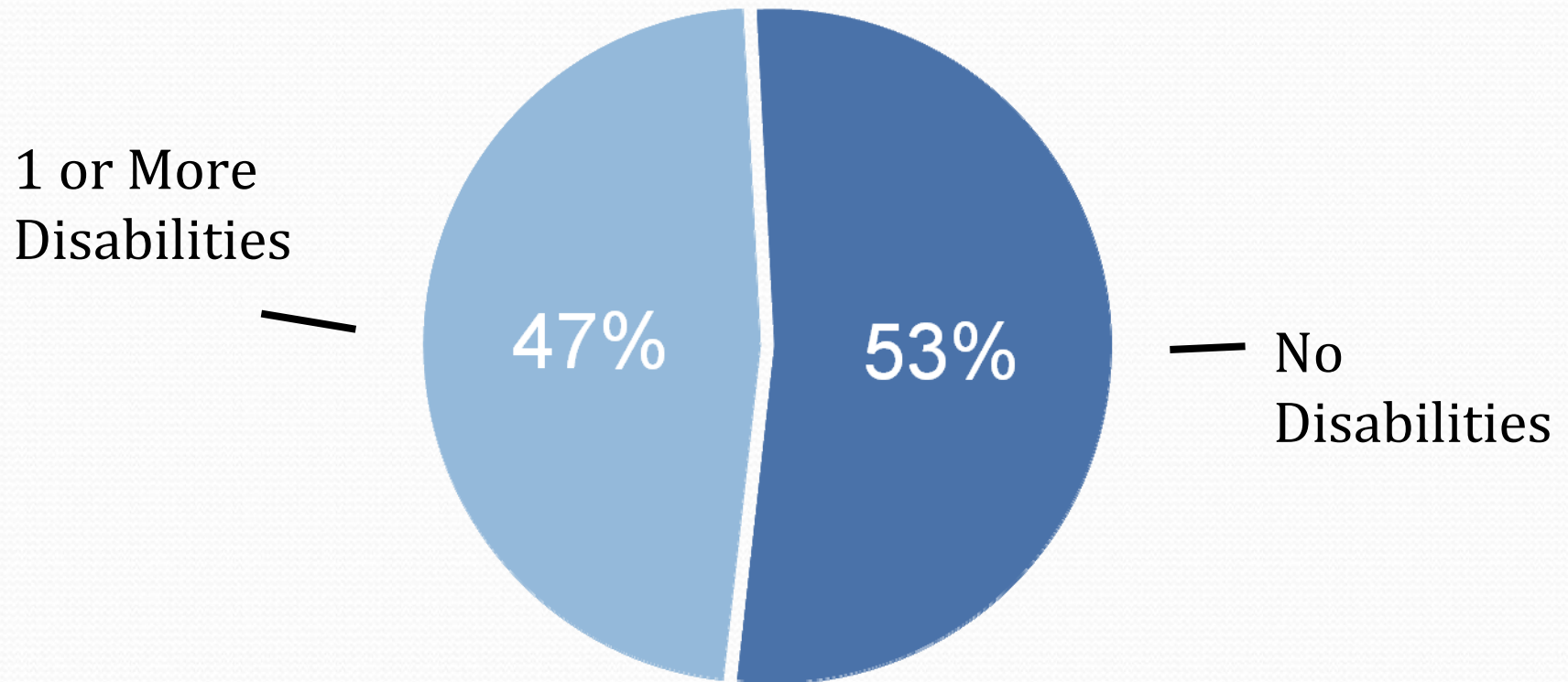
# Asset Poverty

- **Asset poverty** focuses on total household wealth, rather than just income
- An “**asset poor**” household **does not have** enough **assets** to meet its expenses for **3 months** if no outside sources of income

# Asset Poverty

- 1 in 5 U.S. families are asset poor.
- 1/3 of U.S. households have zero or negative assets.
- 60% of African Americans and 54% of Hispanic households experience asset poverty.
- As many as 80% of households with a disability have zero assets.

# Working Age People (25-61) with Income Below the Annual Poverty Line in 1997 By Disability Status



Source: Peiyun She and Gina A. Livermore, "Long-Term Poverty and Disability Among Working-Age Adults," *Journal of Disability Policy Studies* 2009; 19; 244.

# Clearinghouse REVIEW

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## ASSET BUILDING by People with Disabilities

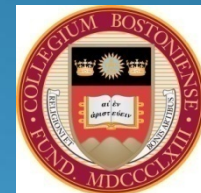
Local Prosecution of Real-Estate Fraud  
Rights of Limited-English-Proficient Individuals  
Machine Translation of Legal Information  
Toward Veterans Courts  
Language Access in State Courts  
Mapping to Show Discrimination  
Unemployment Benefits Appeals  
Postracialism or Targeted Universalism?



 **SHRIVER  
CENTER**  
August Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

# Accessible Assets Webinar, Part 1

Asset Building and the Disability Community



# Training Sessions

- How asset building tools can be effectively used to increase the financial stability and independence of individuals with disabilities
  - Overview of the need for asset-building policy and programs to support long term financial stability
  - Links between disability and poverty
  - Successful national and local programs
  - Political and legal obstacles

# Financial Planning Strategies for Disability Beneficiaries

- Free trainings on practical strategies for saving and increasing financial stability for Social Security Disability beneficiaries
- First training on May 12, 2010 at Access Living ([Accessible Assets Training: Financial Planning Strategies for Disability Service Providers](#) )
- Second training on June 15, 2010 at the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities to inform community partners
- Sponsored by Shriver Center, Financial Planning Association of Illinois, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago and ACTS
- Over 20 organizations interested in coordinating one-on-one financial planning workshop

# Accessible Assets Webinar, Part 2

Asset Development Strategies for  
People with Disabilities



# Asset Coalition Toolkit for States



*Asset Building At Your Finger Tips*

[www.assetcoalitiontoolkit.org](http://www.assetcoalitiontoolkit.org)

# Coalitions and Contacts



Home > Coalitions and Contacts > State Coalition Search - MAP

## State Coalition Search - MAP





## Washington

[2009-2010 Assets and Opportunities Scorecard - Washington \(CFED\)](#)  
[Comprehensive State Assets Policy Information - Washington \(Center for Social Development\)](#)

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### Northwest Native Assets Coalition

The Coalition was formed to assist Native families to achieve the economic standing that will lead to the most important asset for American people --owning a home. The coalition's goals also include: Earned Income Tax Credit and free tax preparation outreach to Native families & community organizations involved in EITC promotion; developing a model Individual Development Account (IDA) program targeting Native youth; and Scholarship Workshops for Native families with college ready students.

#### Coalition Contact

Iris Friday

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### Washington Asset Building Coalition

Washington Asset Building Coalition formed in October, 2006 to expand asset building across Washington state. Over 50 organizations are involved and have helped gain \$2.8 million from the state Legislature for 2007-09. The Coalition is working to advance the following four goals:

- Create a range of private and public prosperity products for asset building;
- Develop and promote public and lending policies for asset building;
- Market savings, smart borrowing and benefits like the EITC; and
- Expand financial literacy opportunities and outcomes across the state

[Washington Asset Poverty Profile \(CFED\)](#)

[Washington Asset Building Coalition \(Department of Commerce\)](#)

#### Coalition Contact

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[About ACTS](#)[Coalitions and Contacts](#)[Coalition Administration](#)[Policy](#)**Asset Coalition  
Toolkit for States**SEARCH --By State-- 

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# Coalition Administration

[Home](#) > [Coalition Administration](#) > [Management](#) > [Membership](#) > [Target Populations](#) > [Disability](#)

## Disability

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 20% of the United States population (or 52.6 million) live with some level of disability. Over one-third of adults with disabilities live in households with incomes of \$15,000 or less, compared to only 12% of those without disabilities. Even when people with disabilities are employed, they earn significantly less than their non-disabled peers, roughly 72 cents to the dollar. It has been estimated that 80% of disability households have zero or negative assets. Thus, people with disabilities not only struggle with

**Share Your Knowledge  
Submit Materials** **Take Action Now!  
Contact Congress**  

# Policy and Advocacy Issues

- Asset Limits
- Earned Income Requirements
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)/Assistive Technology Purchases
- Targeted Legislation
- Leveraging Multiple Programs

# Existing Barriers: State Asset Limit Reform

- States have authority to eliminate asset tests in TANF and Medicaid and, with USDA approval, in Food Stamp Program
- States can implement asset limit reform by legislation or administrative rule
- Several states have implemented asset test reform

# Asset Limit Rules

- **Assistance for Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD)**  
\$2,000 per individual, \$3,000 per couple
- **General Assistance (GA)**  
\$2,000 per individual, \$3,000 per couple
- **Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities (HBWD)**  
\$25,000 per household

# Asset Limit Rules

- **Low Income Subsidy (LIS)**

**\$8,100** per individual, **\$12,910** per couple (full subsidy); **\$12,510** and **\$25,010** (partial subsidy)

- **Medicaid (Nursing Home Residents)**

**\$2,000** per resident, **\$109,560** per community spouse

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)**

**\$4,000** per individual, **\$6,000** per couple

# Asset Limit Rules

- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**  
\$2,000 per individual, \$3,000 per couple
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**  
\$2,000 per individual, \$3,000 per couple

# Programs Without Limits

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**  
NO asset limits for categorically eligible households
- **Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)**  
NONE

# Federal Asset Limit Reform

- **SSI Savers Act of 2010 (H.R. 4937)**
  - Introduced by Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA)
  - Revise Asset Limits:
    - \$5,000 per individual, \$7,500 per couple
    - Index to inflation
    - Education savings accounts excluded

# Federal IDA Reform

- **Assets for Independence Reauthorization Act of 2010 (H.R. 6354)**
  - Raises the authorization limit to \$75 million
  - Simplifies asset purchase processes
  - Expands eligibility standards
  - Allows matches to be placed into a 529 college savings account
- **IDA Protection Act of 2010 (H.R. 6067)**
  - Increase federal funding available for IDAs by \$25 million
  - Eliminate requirement for state matching funds

# Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2009

- **H.R. 1205 & S. 493** (February 26, 2009)
- Introduced by Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL)
- Purpose:
  - To encourage & assist individuals & families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting individuals with disabilities to maintain health, independence, and quality of life
  - To provide secure funding for disability- related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that supplement, not supplant, public benefits

# ABLE Act of 2009

- One tax exempt account per SSI beneficiary up to \$500,000
- Allowable expenses include:
  - Preschool & postsecondary education; tutoring; special education services; training;
  - Employment supports;
  - Personal assistance and community-based supports;
  - Respite care;
  - Assistive technology and home modifications;
  - Out-of-pocket medical, vision, or dental expenses;
  - Transportation vehicle purchases or modifications;
  - Insurance premiums;
  - Habilitation and rehabilitation services; and
  - Other services or products allowed by regulation

# Resources

- Accessible Assets Webinar Resource Page -  
<http://www.povertylaw.org/clearinghouse-review/web-extras/asset-building-disability-webinar>
- Asset Coalition Toolkit for States  
[www.assetcoalitiontoolkit.org](http://www.assetcoalitiontoolkit.org)
- Disability Rights Consortium Presentation  
[http://www.illinoisprobono.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp\\_content&contentID=7142](http://www.illinoisprobono.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp_content&contentID=7142)
- Illinois Asset Building Group  
<http://www.illinoisassetbuilding.org/>

Thank you!

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