



For Immediate Release

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LEXINGTON TO TAKE PART IN #ABLETOSAVE CAMPAIGN

Grassroots initiative aims to educate and encourage people with disabilities to open ABLE accounts

Gloversville, NY – Lexington, a chapter of The Arc New York, announced today that it will take part in #ABLEtoSave, a month-long grassroots education and informational campaign about Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts. The campaign is managed by the ABLE National Resource Center (ANRC). The primary goals of #ABLEtoSave are to increase awareness about ABLE accounts and to accelerate the amount of ABLE accounts opened across the country in the short- and long-term.

ABLE accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts that have the potential to significantly increase the independence and quality of life of individuals with disabilities without jeopardizing much-needed benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Since the passage of the Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in December 2014, 28 states have launched ABLE programs, plus the District of Columbia (many

of which are nationwide programs). Additionally, more than 20,000 individuals with disabilities have opened ABLE accounts.

“ABLE accounts are a down payment on freedom for millions of individuals with disabilities and their families,” said Shaloni Winston, executive director of Lexington. “The goal of the #ABLEtoSave campaign is to significantly boost public knowledge about ABLE accounts and ultimately increase the amount of ABLE accounts opened across all ABLE programs.”

The campaign is expected to have widespread participation from all existing and soon-to-be-launched ABLE programs, major national disability groups, financial institutions and other stakeholders.

In addition, Lexington is offering a series of “Can I Afford My Life?” classes to families of people with disabilities. These classes will cover budgeting, improving credit ratings, handling money stress and using ABLE accounts to prepare for services. “Can I Afford My Life?” will be offered on August 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 43 Harrison Street, Gloversville. For more information about these classes, including times and eligibility requirements, please call Lexington Family Services at (518) 773-2014. These classes are made possible by a grant from The Arc, the national chapter of Lexington’s parent organization.

Throughout the month of August, the ANRC will provide a detailed calendar of sample messages, tweets and other resources to all campaign participants. Informational and marketing videos have also been developed, and a topical webinar will be held each week. Each of the five weeks in August will focus on a different theme:

- WEEK 1 (August 6 -12): BASIC OVERVIEW OF ABLE
- WEEK 2 (August 13-19): ELIGIBILITY
- WEEK 3 (August 20-26): QUALIFIED DISABILITY EXPENSES

- WEEK 4 (August 27- 31): ENROLLMENT and BEYOND

An #ABLEtoSave toolkit will be housed on the ANRC website and will include a logo, sample social media posts, videos and additional outreach materials. For more information about the ABLE Act and ABLE accounts, visit www.ablenrc.org.

Lexington, Chapter of The Arc New York, is a private, not-for-profit agency providing a wide range of services to adults and children who have disabilities in Fulton and Albany Counties. Created in 1953 by a group of concerned parents, Lexington is recognized as one of the leading agencies of its kind in New York State.

For more information about Lexington and its programs and services, visit www.lexingtoncenter.org or “like” us on Facebook: Lexington, Chapter of The Arc New York or www.facebook.com/LexingtonARC.

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