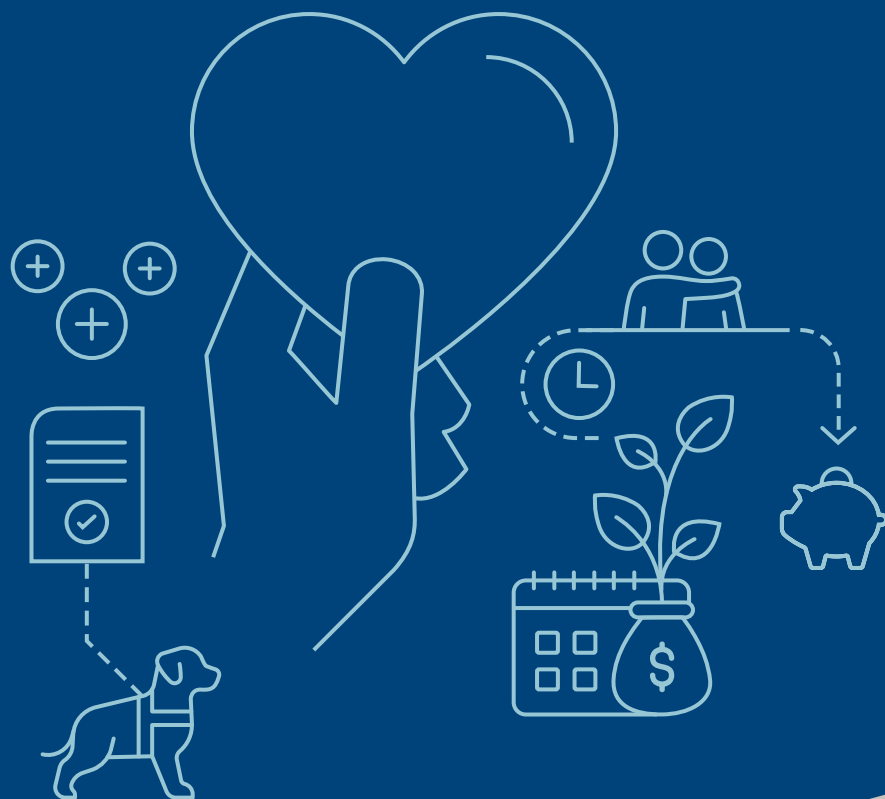


Special needs planning: Securing a future of opportunities

Wealth planning for people with disabilities
and their families



WEALTH INSIGHTS

Analysis and insights into the trends, forces
and factors shaping the world and your wealth



Wealth
Management

Envision your loved one's best life, then make a plan to get there

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Help plan for financial security for a family member with a disability

According to the Pew Research Center, there are 42.5 million Americans with disabilities. This group broadly includes people with physical or cognitive challenges, which often require different approaches to planning.

Yet when it comes to securing the financial future of Americans with disabilities, traditional planning can fall short. Planning for a loved one with a disability requires a comprehensive and tailored approach to help establish long-term stability and quality of life. Planning can also help protect them from financial missteps, scams and fraud.

In this guide you'll find insights and strategies around how to plan for your family member without jeopardizing your own financial security. With this knowledge, you can help your loved one live their best life.

Protect your family's financial future

Understand the financial tools available and make a plan to help create financial security without jeopardizing public assistance benefits.

While planning is essential for the financial and physical well-being of a child with a disability, it's also crucial for adults with disabilities and mental-health needs. In fact, you only need to scan recent headlines to see the surge in the number of people living with mental-health needs, addiction, dementia and cognitive decline to understand the importance of planning to protect the future of your family and your loved ones.

A balancing act

Planning to help create financial security for a person with a disability can be a balancing act. You want to plan ahead for your loved one, balancing your insights about their needs with an understanding of their preferences and their rights, while preserving their access to valuable government benefits. At the same time, you want to provide for the financial well-being of other family members. Planning ahead with a team of professionals can help you achieve it all.



Your journey in planning for a family member with a disability can range from developing a plan for a child with a physical or cognitive disability to developing a plan for a loved one who experiences a disability later in life due to an illness, addiction, dementia or medical complication; or an adult injured in an accident and receiving a structured settlement.

A multifaceted journey

Wealth planning for a family with a loved one with a disability spans the spectrum of financial topics. That's why it's important to create a personalized plan to help you successfully navigate everything from the coordination of benefits to legal and estate planning.

Make a plan for your child and your family's financial security

Taking care of a child can be rewarding and fulfilling, but can also be overwhelming. Parents of a child with a disability often prioritize their child's needs over those of other family members—even their own retirement security.

Caregiving costs for a child with a disability can require a great deal of financial resources. The cost of care associated with raising a child diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome or other physical, mental or emotional disabilities can exceed \$25,000 a year through childhood—even more depending on your location and child's specific needs. In contrast, a report issued by the Brookings Institution in 2022 estimates that the cost of raising a child without a disability from birth to age 18 hovers around \$17,000 a year.

Money is one thing. But what will happen to your child as you or your spouse age or are no longer around? Will your child need someone to oversee their care and pay their expenses once they become an adult? What about your own financial security in retirement? How about other family members? Will you be able to leave a legacy for them?



While making sure that money will last a lifetime is a common concern for most people, some families face additional financial challenges because they need to plan for decades of costs to support a loved one.

7 million

In the United States, more than seven million students receive special education services, according to the Pew Research Center.¹

Plan for your child's education



As your child grows, you may need to consider different costs of education at different points in their life. At this point, a personalized wealth plan becomes a necessity.

Questions to consider include:

- What educational environment will help your child thrive?
- Are there additional costs that may accompany that?
- Will your child need care within that educational environment or during after-school activities?
- What will you need to save for post-secondary education?

A personalized wealth plan helps provide clarity today and confidence tomorrow

The most important asset your child has is you. Hence the importance of a personalized, goals-based plan that reflects what's most important to you and your family—a plan that simplifies complexities and flexes when life changes. For families with a child with a disability, a wealth plan coupled with a letter of intent and a special needs trust can provide clear answers to difficult questions.

How will you start planning for your child's future?

If your child is young, you might want to create a life care plan, or a road map with educational, living and career planning to help your child transition to adulthood. Collectively, these details are commonly considered a “letter of intent”. While a letter of intent is a helpful tool, it lacks the depth and detail of a personalized plan.

A letter of intent

Many parents with children with disabilities recommend drafting a letter of intent that guides your family and your child's support team on how to provide the best care for your child. Though not legally binding, this letter can help to see your child will have the life you envision after you are gone.

This letter should summarize details, such as likes, dislikes, habits and aspirations of your child in order to help smooth their transition. Also, take inventory of the projected caregiving costs both today and through adulthood, including housing, education, equipment, transportation, medications, home modifications, therapies and other caregivers. These details are best crafted as an addendum to an estate plan so that your family and caregivers are working off one document.

In your road map or letter of intent, be sure to address these fundamental questions:

- Is your child interested in post-secondary education?
- Will your child work and earn an income?
- How can your child be supported to live as independently as they want or as is possible? What living arrangements or supports are available?



To help your child realize their best future, consider current and expected expenses.

Five steps toward creating an effective plan

Your plan should address your loved one's long-term care and supervision, money management, designated decision-making or guardianship if needed, funeral arrangements and naming other people who are part of your child's support team. The plan should also include the legal documents that will help your family and care providers clearly understand your wishes and intentions, including a will, power of attorney, a medical directive and a trust.



Step 1

Develop a vision—what support does your family and your child need? What are the hopes and dreams for your child and your family's future?

Consider both short- and long-term needs, including medical and physical care, therapies, education, college or vocational training, community inclusion, housing and daily living expenses.



Step 2

Build a team of professionals and family members who can work together to develop a comprehensive plan.

For many families, expanding the reach of support resources will be helpful for the long-term sustainability of the care plan. Tapping into local support organizations and non-profits is another practical step.



Step 3

Understand government benefit programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance. Work with your team to maximize benefits and preserve eligibility.

You may also wish to look into Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, federally assisted housing, energy assistance and group homes.



Step 4

Create a comprehensive plan for you and your child that integrates budgeting, insurance, estate planning and investment strategies.

Consider the inclusion of special needs trusts, Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act accounts, and other strategies to protect assets and provide for your child's long-term financial stability.



Step 5

Monitor and revisit your plan annually and at important age-based milestones. Staying current with government benefit changes and qualification rules should be part of your ongoing monitoring process.

It's also important to understand and plan for how benefits change at age 18 when your child becomes a legal adult.

At age 18, your child becomes eligible for SSI provided that their personal assets remain under \$2,000.

According to the Social Security Administration, the maximum Supplemental Security Income monthly benefit is \$967 (an amount linked to inflation) as of January 2025, though this amount may be reduced based on a person's income and support from others.

Note that many states also offer a state supplement.

Learn about guardianship, conservatorship and alternatives

Once a person turns 18, they are presumed capable to make decisions about their person and property. For families with a loved one with a disability, support with decision-making may be needed as they reach age 18 and beyond. Generally, conservatorship and guardianship are considered only as a last resort, when and if a person is unable to make financial or personal decisions and has no other viable options. Alternatives to explore include supported decision-making, durable power of attorney, living trust or some other means.



Supported decision-making vs. conservatorship vs. guardianship

Supported decision making is a person-centered approach that empowers people to make decisions with the support of trusted family, friends and professionals. With this approach, a medical directive and financial power of attorney can play a key role for the person with a disability.

If there are concerns a person's capacity could be challenged, a physician's certificate can be obtained indicating that the individual has capacity to make decisions. This certificate will be valuable should someone later challenge the person's ability to make decisions.

In some cases, relatives or caretakers of loved ones living with a disability may need more control over their family member's personal affairs.

A **legal guardian** can make a wide range of personal and medical decisions for the person in their care, while a **conservatorship** generally grants much more limited decision-making powers.

For example, a conservator usually only has the authority to pay bills, make investments and handle other financial matters. They can also be charged with arranging for their medical care, deciding where they live and managing other daily affairs.

Both conservatorship and guardianship require a court's approval. This means a person must go through a legal process to acquire these powers over someone else's life.



Guardianship and conservatorship as a part of estate planning

If you have other informal arrangements with relatives or formal planning arrangements, such as a durable power of attorney, you may not need to do guardianship or conservatorship planning for your child.

However, if it is likely that someone may challenge your planning arrangements (for example, if there are disagreements within the family) you may want to consider including plans for guardianship or conservatorship in your will or estate plan as a backup to your other arrangements. Any person may petition the court for the appointment of a conservator of an individual who is unable to manage property and business affairs because of an impairment in the ability to make decisions, and can revoke or terminate some prior planning arrangements. By choosing a person in your will or estate plan you would want to be your child's guardian or conservator, you protect against the appointment of someone you would not want to be in this position.

Generally, conservatorship and guardianship are considered only as a last resort, when and if a person is unable to make financial or personal decisions and has no other viable options.

The basics of special needs trusts

As a parent, you want to provide a high quality of life for your child, and that's where special needs trusts come into play. A special needs trust is intended to supplement, not replace, government benefits. It should be structured in a way that the trust funds are used to cover additional expenses that go beyond what government programs provide.



Special needs trusts

A special needs trust holds financial assets for the benefit of a beneficiary with cognitive, physical or behavioral issues—including addiction and substance abuse—without impacting the person's eligibility for government benefits. A special needs trust should only be used for those receiving public benefits.

Special needs trusts are also established to receive assets from a legal settlement, especially if the recipient is a minor. The trust ends when it's no longer needed—typically at the beneficiary's death or when the funds have been spent.

By allocating current and future funds to a trust, you'll be able to provide help without counting those contributions toward the beneficiary's personal income. Like other trust accounts, a special needs trust includes a grantor who establishes the fund, a trustee who manages the account, and a beneficiary who receives the benefits.

Assets in special needs trusts may be used to pay for many things that government programs don't cover to help improve and enrich a loved one's quality of life. The trust may make funds available for therapies, procedures and specialized medical equipment not covered by basic public benefits, plus education, training and other items.

A special needs trust can also help:

- Address the concerns of quality and cost of care when family members are no longer able to provide care
- Create a higher level of care than government benefit programs
- Preserve family wealth
- Protect a person who may be susceptible to undue influence, or unable to manage money if the assets were given outright
- Shield funds because trust assets are not subject to creditors
- Streamline administrative tasks through professional trustee and money management services

In most cases, funds from a special needs trust may be used for:

| | |
|--|---|
| A home, property taxes, insurance and home renovations | Internet, cable and phone services |
| Caregiving | Professional services from accountants, lawyers or life coaches |
| Cars, repairs and insurance | Travel |
| Classes, clubs and extracurricular activities | Dental services |
| Computer, mobile phone, tablet or other electronic devices to access information | Education |

A professional trustee should also be considered.

There are many instances where a well-intentioned family member administers the trust improperly, thereby jeopardizing benefits. See page 11 for five reasons to consider choosing a professional trustee.

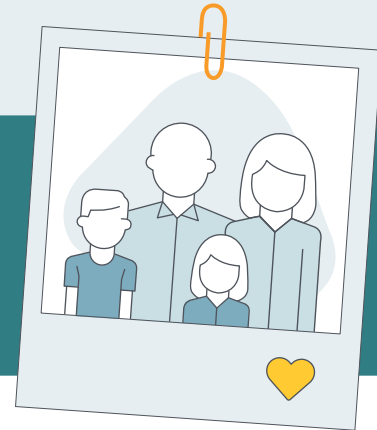
CASE STUDY:

How a special needs trust can meet different planning needs

A FAMILY SNAPSHOT

Parents: Mike and Jessica, both age 37

Children: Jacob, age seven, and Amelia, age five



Meet the family

Mike and Jessica's child Amelia was born with physical and cognitive disabilities and will need services and support to help throughout life. Amelia's future is of utmost importance to her parents; they want to know that once they're gone Amelia will be able to maintain current quality of life.

Their other child Jacob lives without disabilities. With much of their time and money committed to Amelia's well-being, Mike and Jessica wonder whether there will be a legacy for Jacob.

Mike and Jessica realize the need to craft a plan that will provide for Amelia's needed support without jeopardizing eligibility for government benefits and programs. Yet the plan should also address Jacob's needs.

A solution for both children

One possible solution for Mike and Jessica is to establish a special needs trust for Amelia. At the same time, the couple could make Jacob the beneficiary of Mike's life insurance policy to provide an inheritance.

With a special needs trust, Mike and Jessica know that Amelia will receive necessary support throughout life whether they are here or not. In this case, they may have peace of mind knowing that:

- Amelia will continue to receive government benefits, including SSI and Medicaid
- They retain control over who inherits the trust should Amelia pass away
- They have a team of professionals in place who will carry out their wishes for Amelia

If you have other children without disabilities, your wealth plan should take them into account, too. There are many ways to see that siblings also receive support or an inheritance.

Two types of special needs trusts: First party and third party



There are two main types of special needs trusts: first party and third party. The appropriate trust for your situation depends on your financial situation and the assets that will fund the trust.

FIRST-PARTY TRUST

First-party trusts are:

- Established by a person with a disability, the parents of a person with a disability, grandparents, legal guardian(s) or the court
- For individuals under age 65 with a disability as defined by the Social Security Administration
- Irrevocable
- For the “sole benefit of” the individual

A first-party special needs trust is usually created when a person with a disability inherits money or they collect a court settlement. This trust is commonly used for equitable distribution, alimony and child support. They can be practical when a person without disabilities who owns assets becomes disabled. Establishing a first-party special needs trust allows the beneficiary to receive disability benefits without the value of their assets restricting their eligibility for government benefits.

There are several drawbacks with the first-party special needs trust. When the beneficiary dies, Medicaid will bill the trust for the money spent by that program during the beneficiary’s life. The trust must reimburse Medicaid the amount of the bill. However, if the trust assets are less than the Medicaid charge, Medicaid will absorb the balance of its bill. After Medicaid is repaid, the remaining assets can pass to other beneficiaries.

A first-party special needs trust is irrevocable; once money goes into the trust it can’t come out for other purposes. Keep in mind that in some states the State Medicaid Agency will scrutinize trust distributions.

THIRD-PARTY TRUST

Third-party trusts are:

- Typically not funded until the death of the surviving parents, except for situations where potential tax benefits make prior funding desirable

Parents or grandparents of a child with a disability may include in their will or living trust that assets be distributed to a third-party special needs trust. The same procedure can be used for IRAs, life insurance or other assets with beneficiary designations. The beneficiary of these assets should be the special needs trust itself and not the person with a disability.

Most people have a third-party trust included in their estate plan to see that their child is cared for both while they are still living and after their death. There is no limit to the size of a third-party trust, and it’s not subject to the government payback requirement.

Reasons to select a professional trustee:

1. They are responsible to make sure that they do not inadvertently imperil the beneficiary’s eligibility for government programs
2. They can tailor distributions to last the beneficiary’s lifetime, if possible
3. Family members are relieved of personal responsibility for mistakes

GET STARTED:

How to establish a special needs trust

> Designate the beneficiary and establish the trust

A qualified attorney drafts the trust, which may be funded by a gift, an inheritance, parents' funds, a person's own funds, life insurance or money from a personal injury lawsuit settlement. But first, think about your wishes for your loved one. Consider:

- How much money the beneficiary will need and how long it should last
- What needs can be met with the money

Funds from a trust must be distributed to third parties for the benefit of the trust beneficiary, not to the beneficiary directly.

> Choose a trustee

A trustee manages the day-to-day operations of the trust, often making distributions, investing the trust's assets, being compliant with record keeping and reporting requirements, filing taxes and paying the trust's bills—all while maintaining the beneficiary's eligibility for public benefits programs. It can be more work and responsibility than many trustees anticipate.

A trustee can be the beneficiary's parent or other relative, a trusted friend, or a professional such as a lawyer, accountant, trust company, bank or private professional fiduciary. You can also choose contingent trustees, so you have a backup in case something happens to one. Once you select your trustee(s), you'll have to sign the trust to transfer assets to the trustee.

But there are many cases in which it makes more sense to designate a professional trustee that offers trust administration as a professional service. (see sidebar)

> Fund the trust

Once the trust is established, you can fund it with assets like cash, investments or life insurance policies that pay out when the policy owner dies. You can also designate property you want to hold in a special needs trust through a will, beneficiary designations on bank or brokerage accounts, or retirement plans.

Five reasons to consider choosing a professional trustee

A trustee who is not the beneficiary of a trust, and who oversees management of the trust in a professional capacity, is known as a professional trustee. A professional trustee can be a valuable asset for an estate plan because they can help avoid potential pitfalls and see the trust is managed well. They offer:

- **Expertise and experience**
Professional trustees have decades of experience and an in-house team of experts who can handle all aspects of the trust.
- **Unbiased decision-making**
Professional trustees can make decisions without the emotion of family dynamics. This can help avoid conflicts that may arise.
- **Consistency**
A professional trustee provides ongoing service, unlike an individual trustee who may resign, die or move away.
- **Record-keeping and reporting**
Professional trustees are required to keep thorough records and provide reports.
- **Compliance and legal insight**
Professional trustees can keep up with changes in laws and regulations and provide legal compliance. They are also audited, regulated, bonded and insured.



Other savings options

People who work and receive Medicaid, SSI or other benefits may find it difficult to save money and still maintain their benefits. This is especially important for “means-tested” benefits, in which assets over \$2,000 could jeopardize eligibility for government benefits; there are also income tests that vary from program to program. Yet protected savings accounts like ABLE accounts and pooled trusts make it possible for individuals to have savings limits greater than \$2,000 and preserve eligibility for benefits.

ABLE ACCOUNTS

ABLE accounts:

- Are tax-advantaged, state-administered accounts
- Function like 529 college savings plans
- Maintain an individual’s eligibility for government benefit programs

ABLE accounts were created in 2014 following the passage of the ABLE Act. The Act provides that up to \$100,000 in an ABLE Act account can be disregarded for the purposes of determining a beneficiary’s eligibility for SSI. ABLE Act accounts are popular because they are inexpensive, easy to set up and help build long-term savings for a child with a disability. The money in these accounts can be used for qualified disability-related expenses, such as education, housing, personal support services, transportation and health and wellness. In addition:

- There is currently an \$18,000 annual contribution limit (all contributors combined) that is indexed to inflation and is the same amount as the annual gift tax exclusion
- An individual must have a disability that began before age 26
- Contributions may be made by any “person,” defined as an individual, trust, estate, partnership, association, company or corporation
- The designated beneficiary is the account owner, although another person such as a parent, guardian or person with power of attorney may be allowed signature authority over the account
- Upon the death of the beneficiary, funds remaining in the account will be paid to Medicaid for services rendered

POOLED TRUSTS

Pooled trusts are:

- Usually managed by nonprofit organizations
- A practical solution for families who don’t have a reliable trustee candidate
- Designed for smaller accounts
- Can be either first party or third party

As with an individual special needs trust, funds in a pooled trust supplement a beneficiary’s government benefits. The funds can be used to pay for expenses within specific permitted criteria, with the same process used for distributions from first- or third-party trusts. These expenses often improve the beneficiary’s quality of life.

Pooled special needs trusts gather funds from multiple families, as well as other donors and community members. Each contributor has a separate account and the funds are pooled together for investment impact. A trustee chosen by the managing nonprofit organization is responsible for distributing funds to the beneficiary.

There are drawbacks, however. Such trusts can be expensive—there’s usually a one-time enrollment fee, plus an annual fee. Also, pooled trusts are irrevocable; contributions cannot be reversed.

Upon the death of the beneficiary, funds remaining in the account will be paid to Medicaid for services rendered. After the Medicaid payback, many pooled trusts retain a portion of the remaining assets for themselves.

Settlements and inheritances

Settlement proceeds, including lump-sum cash payments and annuities, can be used to fund a first-party special needs trust, allowing an individual to remain eligible for benefits. At the same time, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act (the SECURE Act) provides relief for inherited IRAs.

Legal settlements

In the case of a personal injury or wrongful death settlement, there are typically three options to consider: a structured settlement, a lump-sum payment and a special needs trust, or a combination of these solutions.

It is important to get ahead of the settlement and work with the legal representatives to do pre-settlement planning. Each settlement is unique and each plaintiff's financial situation can vary. Depending on the situation, there could be a number of issues to address before finalizing the settlement.

Some of those items include:

- Debt payoff
- Government benefits
- Home modifications
- Income needs
- Liquidity needs
- Medical coverage
- Nursing care
- Specialized/modified vehicles
- Trust solutions

In the case of a personal injury or wrongful death settlement, there are typically three options to consider: a structured settlement, a lump-sum payment and a special needs trust, or a combination of these solutions.

Once a family determines these needs, an advisor can build a framework on how the settlement should be structured, such as how much to take in upfront cash, whether it be placed in an investment account or some type of trust.

Structured settlement payments can be customized to fit the individual's needs. They can provide an income stream to cover care costs, replace lost income and offer protection from spending down the proceeds needed for long-term needs.

These future periodic payments become terms of the settlement negotiated between the defendant and plaintiff, and can be court ordered when involving minors and incapacitated adults. Because these payments must be included within the settlement documents and can't be changed, careful planning is essential to help meet the individual's future needs.







The SECURE Act of 2019 and its impact on third-party trusts

The SECURE Act was signed into law in 2019. One important impact of the SECURE Act was the elimination of stretch IRAs that allowed people (other than spouses) who inherited an IRA to receive disbursements over their entire lifetimes.

Under the new Act, non-spouses who inherit an IRA must receive a full payout of that account within 10 years from the death of the original account holder.

The drafters of the SECURE Act realized there are situations where the 10-year payout timeframe would cause more harm than good. One of those situations involved retirement accounts left to a person with a disability. Under an exception to the SECURE Act, a person with a disability can still inherit retirement funds and take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) over their lifetime, rather than the 10-year time period required of other beneficiaries.

Thriving in every life stage Use this checklist as a starting point to begin planning.

| Key financial pillars | Working toward tomorrow | Approaching retirement | Thriving in your encore years |
|--|---|---|---|
|  <p>Accumulate and grow your wealth</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Begin with the end in mind; define your goals, plan, save and invest with regular reviews <input type="checkbox"/> Have an emergency fund of at least six months of expenses in liquid investments <input type="checkbox"/> Save strategically by taking advantage of employer-sponsored retirement plans; max out your contributions and receive the employer match <input type="checkbox"/> Leverage a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k) in your early career years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Align investments, track and rebalance regularly to help offset the impact of inflation <input type="checkbox"/> Increase your savings rate and take advantage of catch-up contributions at age 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> Optimize your tax-deferred savings with other investments for better after-tax returns today and in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Use a Roth conversion to build flexibility and tax diversification into your plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understand the probable outcome of your wealth plan; review annually <input type="checkbox"/> Consider consolidating accounts with one financial provider to simplify your financial life <input type="checkbox"/> Use the bucket strategy to restructure your assets into portfolios to meet your near-, intermediate- and long-term needs |
|  <p>Fund your lifestyle today and tomorrow</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor spending levels with a set budget and eliminate unproductive debt <input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of an HSA and consider deferring the use of those dollars to fund your health care expenses in retirement <input type="checkbox"/> Model expected retirement expenses into your wealth plan, factoring inflation and expected lifestyle changes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a plan for your retirement paycheck and determine when to start Social Security <input type="checkbox"/> Understand the impact taxes will have on your retirement paycheck <input type="checkbox"/> Consider an annuity to help manage income and longevity risk <input type="checkbox"/> Create a retirement budget to cover your needs, but allow flexibility for your wants and wishes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manage your spending to cover your needs, goals and priorities <input type="checkbox"/> Plan ahead for Required Minimum Distributions starting at age 73, as well as any related taxes or increases in Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> Create your retirement paycheck in a tax-efficient manner and revisit your paycheck strategy annually |
|  <p>Protect what is important to you</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate your options for health, disability and life insurance coverage <input type="checkbox"/> As your income, wealth and family grow, plan for adequate life insurance to cover your liabilities and provide for your loved ones <input type="checkbox"/> Consider property and casualty insurance; as your estate grows, you may need umbrella insurance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a plan for supplementing Medicare with a Medigap plan, plus coverage for dental and vision care <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the impact that a long-term care event could have on your plan and evaluate your need for long-term care coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Use credit strategically to manage the impact of the unexpected; establish a credit line before you retire <input type="checkbox"/> Re-evaluate your life insurance needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enroll promptly in Medicare at age 65 and claim Social Security by age 70 <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid selling assets in down markets by using a credit strategy or insurance cash value to supplement income <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss your care and caregiving wishes with your family; have a plan for funding your care needs |
|  <p>Create a lasting legacy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take care of your estate essentials by establishing a revocable trust, will, health care directive and power of attorney <input type="checkbox"/> See that your assets are properly titled and beneficiary designations are current <input type="checkbox"/> Think about a gifting plan that is impactful and aligned to your values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Revisit estate-planning documents, asset titling and beneficiary designations to confirm intended outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the benefits of various trust structures to protect your assets, transfer your wealth and facilitate your estate settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Couples should have a plan that considers different scenarios for survivorship; include housing and care needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure your estate plan is aligned with your wishes and updated to reflect changes in your family <input type="checkbox"/> Understand gift and estate tax thresholds and take advantage of wealth transfer exclusions and deductions <input type="checkbox"/> Consider various gifting strategies, including the benefits of a donor advised fund and qualified charitable distribution |

A matter of trust

Planning is essential for those with disabilities to see that their options for wealth management are addressed, and to help them live their best life, during their family/caregivers' lifetime and beyond.

RBC Wealth Management is in a unique position to bring planning and specialized services together to help create and fund customized plans for people with disabilities and their families.

Your RBC Wealth Management financial advisor works with attorneys and tax advisors to provide proficiency with the aspects of a person's wealth plan, including the impact of government benefits, taxes, asset management strategies, managing the funding and use of trust solutions and understanding estate planning needs and legal settlement options.

An RBC advisor can also help create a multi-disciplinary life care plan that addresses both present and future needs, encompassing health care management, education, vocational training, community inclusion and housing.

RBC Wealth Management can be a trusted resource for a person's legal settlements needs. Whether it be a structured settlement, traditional investments or trusts, we have the capability to offer the appropriate solution.

RBC Trust

Working with your tax advisor and legal counsel, RBC Wealth Management Professional Trustee Services can be a helpful resource as you review or establish a special needs trust.

RBC Trust supports the beneficiaries of a special needs trust in three ways. We can help:

- 1) Preserve government benefits by managing the trust properly
- 2) Meet cash flow needs with prudent investment management of trust assets through our network of investment partners
- 3) Improve the quality of life by working with your legal advisors to implement the special needs trust so that it provides a wide range of quality-of-life activities and services

Your next chapter

Every successful journey begins with a starting point, a destination and a plan to get there safely. Planning for a lifetime means more than just numbers on a page. Our goals-based wealth planning approach focuses on what matters most to you. Regardless of where you are in life—whether you're just starting out, raising a family or enjoying retirement—your financial advisor crafts a plan that charts a direct course to your goals, yet flexes when life throws you a curveball. A financial advisor you trust, with a plan you create together, can help you accomplish your financial priorities.

About Wealth Insights

Your financial journey is informed by both a clear understanding of where you are today and the strategic options that can fuel your tomorrows. At RBC Wealth Management, we are committed to delivering insights that educate, equip and engage you for that journey.

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Strengthening your financial securitySM

www.rbcwealthmanagement.com



Wealth
Management

¹Pew Research, July 2023

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