

Future Financial Planning for People with Disabilities and Family Members of People with Disabilities Recommendations Framework

The following recommendations framework was developed to provide specific and concrete strategies and actions that can be taken to improve the future financial planning process for people with disabilities and their families. These recommendations focus on resources, supports, and actions that can involve, inform, and impact several stakeholder groups, including people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, disability service sector professionals, financial planning professionals, researchers, policy makers, and advocates. They outline several approaches that target areas of need related to future financial planning for people with disabilities and families.

Development of Recommendations | The recommendations in this framework were developed by experts and professionals in the financial, legal, and disabilities fields. They represented people with disabilities, family members, disability service sector professionals, financial planning professionals, legal professionals, and academics. Many experts identified with two or more of these groups. Experts participating in the development of these recommendations included people who have dedicated their careers or significant time to improving the future financial planning process for people with disabilities and their families.

Recommendations were developed from data collected via virtual Zoom teleconferencing meetings that were held on May 18th and May 27th, 2021. During the three-hour sessions, experts collaboratively discussed, developed, and shared recommendations to improve future financial planning for people with disabilities. Discussions were informed by the interview and survey results of a national study of future financial planning conducted by the National Leadership Consortium research team in the previous year. Expert recommendations were grouped thematically by the National Consortium Research team and were reviewed with data that emerged from the previous interviews, as well as qualitative responses to six survey questions¹ that focused on potential solutions to improve future financial planning.

Layout of the Recommendations Framework | The recommendations outlined in the framework below are further elaborated on in the report of the national study of future financial planning, *Future Financial Planning for People with Disabilities: What's Working and What's Not*. The results of the study are referred to several times throughout the framework as 'from the report,' particularly in the justification section of each recommendation. The layout of the recommendation framework is organized to provide further detail about each of the seven recommendations. The table below describes the content in each section.

Topic: The topic of the recommendation	
Focus	<i>A detailed description of the recommendation</i>
Who or What is Impacted	<i>The people or sectors that will be most influenced if the recommendations are enacted</i>
Components	<i>Different aspects or action items of the overall recommendation</i>
Ideas for Implementation	<i>Strategies or actions that would enact the recommendations</i>
Justification	<i>Evidence-based information, research, and resources that demonstrate why this recommendation is important</i>
In Plain Language	<i>A plain language description of the recommendation and what it means for people with disabilities and their families</i>

Finally, the Recommendations Framework ends with ideas for funding each of the recommendations that have been collected from a review of federal agencies, foundations, corporate funders, sponsors, and donors that support efforts and research to improve future financial planning for people with disabilities and their families.

¹ Survey Questions: What advice would you give to other people starting the future financial planning process? (*Question for people with disabilities only*). What advice would you give to other family members starting the future financial planning process? (*Question for families only*). What advice would you give to other guardians of people with disabilities starting the future financial planning process? (*Question for guardians only*). What could help fix these problems? (*Question for all respondents, referring to the barriers to future financial planning identified*). Do you have other suggestions about what additional oversight of the future financial process might look like? (*Question for all respondents*). Is there anything else that you would like to add to help us understand future financial planning for people with disabilities? (*Question for all respondents*).

Education, Training, and Certification	
Focus	Recommendations related to Education, Training, and Certification focus on education and training opportunities that can help people become more informed about and skilled in their role in the future financial planning process. These education and training opportunities may or may not be required and may or may not lead to licensing, credentialing, or some other form of earned certification.
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities
	Disability Sector Professionals
	Financial Planning Professionals
Components	Training & Education Topics
	Increase basic financial literacy and planning skills
	Training and services to support saving and planning from young age
	Increase knowledge of financial planning and savings options for people with disabilities
	State specific training
	Financial planning as part of Person Centered Plan/ ISP
Ideas for Implementation	Mandated or optional certifications for financial professionals
	Around the U.S. there are local and regional training and education opportunities related to financial planning and building financial skills for people with disabilities and their families. Some are offered by organizations that do not financially benefit from them, such as universities, the Arc of the United States, and Benefits Counselors, while others are offered by financial planning professionals. Experts recommend the expansion of education and training opportunities into schools, transition programs, and services and institutions that most people with disabilities and their families already access. Efforts and funds to support current educational opportunities to scale up or pilot training and education statewide through K-12 education systems may be effective.
	For professionals working in the disability service sector, there exist few training and educational opportunities. Because disability services are often the first or primary point of contact for people with disabilities and their families, training and education of disability service staff about basic rules and savings options related to financial planning and resources to share with people with disabilities and families could be extremely helpful. Organizations that do not benefit directly from financial planning, such as national collaboratives, state agencies, or universities, could develop these trainings (or scale up existing trainings).
	For financial planning professionals, there exist degree and certificate programs at various universities around the U.S.. Some experts noted that requiring credentials or standards for financial planning professionals will further deplete an already limited supply of financial planners who have experience supporting people with disabilities and their families to save and maintain their benefits and services. However, others shared that without extensive education and training, financial planning professionals may unintentionally make recommendations that threaten or disqualify eligibility for needed public benefits. Encouraging membership or involvement in national organizations that focus on best practices and provide training for financial planning professionals, including financial planners, attorneys, and accountants may be another way to enhance professional skills.
Justification	From Research
	Financial saving practices are <u>not common</u> for <u>Americans</u> in general. They are <u>less common for people with disabilities.</u>
	From the Report
	People with disabilities and families name lack of knowledge, and difficulty to set up accounts as primary reasons for not having accounts (p. 17)
	It is common for people with disabilities and families to delay future financial planning because they do not have needed support (p. 22)
	Training was cited as a top reason that people with disabilities have financial accounts (p. 21)
	Financial literacy was strongly correlated with having financial account (p. 17)
In Plain Language	There are many rules about how people with disabilities can save and spend their money and keep the services and benefits they need; these rules can make planning very difficult. Training and education can help people understand rules about financial planning and saving. Today, there is not enough training or education for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and professionals who work for people with disabilities. More training programs are needed so that more people have the support they need.

Communication	
Focus	Recommendations related to Communication focus on developing, broadcasting, and more widely sharing messages that engage and notify people about future financial planning, the rights of people with disabilities to control their finances, and helpful resources that are available.
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities
	Disability Sector Professionals
	Financial Planning Professionals
	Benefits Eligibility Professionals
	Society
Components	Ongoing Campaign Ideas
	Increase awareness of the need for future financial planning
	Increase awareness of need for economic inclusion of people with disabilities
	Change societal perception about the financial capabilities of people with disabilities
	Inform people about savings options and resources available
Ideas for Implementation	<p>Experts recognized the need for funding* national communication strategies or campaigns through various sources that regularly reach people with disabilities, families, and the disability service sector and financial professionals. Outreach may be increased through a collaborative effort between national or regional membership organizations, associations, and state governments. Experts noted that many donors, foundations, and grants do not contribute to communication or marketing, however outreach is a pressing issue that impacts lack of information about and engagement in future financial planning.</p> <p><i>* Potential sources of funding are discussed at the end of this document</i></p>
Justification	From the Report
	There is not consistent agreement that people with disabilities should have choice and control about their money. This demonstrates a need for shift in mindset (p. 24)
	People with disabilities and families cited lack of knowledge about accounts and financial planning as primary reason for not having financial accounts (p. 17)
	Interviewees named societal factors such as having high expectations for people with disabilities and having a vision for a greater future as facilitators to financial planning (p. 12)
In Plain Language	<p>Many people with disabilities and their families do not know how important future financial planning is and the different services that can help them. There needs to be more communication about options and services for saving and planning. Communication should focus on why future financial planning is important. Communication should also focus on why people with disabilities should be supported to control their money. Communication should also focus on services and tools that can help people save and plan and keep their benefits and supports. Communication should be able to reach people with disabilities, families, and professionals across the U.S.</p>

Advocacy	
Focus	Recommendations related to Advocacy focus on efforts to expand opportunities to champion or change legislation, policies, rules, regulations, and/or systems that impact future financial planning for people with disabilities.
Who or What is Impacted	State and Federal Policies, Regulations, and Rules
Components	Advocacy to Make Changes to
	Expand Social Security Income benefits limitations so that people can earn and save needed money *
	Increase eligibility for ABLE accounts by increasing the age of onset of disability at which someone can qualify (currently 26 years of age) *
	Allow Medicaid funds and public benefits to pay for future financial planning *
Ideas for Implementation	It is important to note that advocacy in the recommended areas already exists and that there is legislation and action being taken to change rules and regulations to simplify and provide more access to future financial for people with disabilities and their families. However, experts noted that increased advocacy, particularly from people with disabilities, families, and professionals may be helpful. Supporting and mobilizing organizations that are led by advocates with disabilities and disability focused organizations that initiate advocacy, lobbying, and engage people with disabilities in advocacy in meaningful ways may be an effective strategy to increase advocacy.
Justification	Examples of Proposed Legislation
	ABLE Age Adjustment Act
	SSI EXPANSION LEGISLATION
	From the Report
	People with disabilities and families cited fear of losing benefits as top reason for not having a future financial account (p. 17)
	People with disabilities, families, and professionals named legal issues (rules and laws don't let people save their money, maintain public benefits, and control how their money is spent) as the top three barriers to future financial planning (p. 19)
	Respondents rated low confidence in stability of policies governing financial planning for people with disabilities indicates need for advocacy (p. 20)
In Plain Language	One of the things that makes future financial planning hard for people with disabilities and their families are the rules and laws that do not let people to save the amount of money they need and that limit certain types of accounts to people who have disabilities before the age of 26. People with disabilities and their families can help work to change these policies.

* Indicates that there is legislation or action already initiated to do this

Organization or Structure for Guidance and Oversight	
Focus	Recommendations related to an Organization for Guidance and Oversight focus on building, creating, or establishing an entity to offer information, resources, and do work to ensure that people with disabilities and families access professionals and services that will effectively support them to plan and secure financial futures.
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities
	Disability Sector Professionals
	Financial Planning Professionals
Components	Role of Organization or Entity
	Offer vetted materials, tools, and resources
	Advocate and advise policy decisions
	Help people understand elements and processes of future financial planning
	Connect people with other stakeholders, including vetted professionals and services
Offer standards of best practice specific to roles of financial professionals	
Ideas for Implementation	National entities or collaboratives exist that are dedicated to addressing a variety of issues that people with disabilities and their families face. They are generally comprised of leaders from regional and national organizations that are committed to addressing, advocating against, and mitigating those issues. This model may be a helpful example for the creation of a national organization focused on providing resources, information, technical assistance, and guidance to people who are involved in the future financial planning process . Experts recommend both organizations that provide coordinated support for all stakeholders, including people with disabilities, families of people with disabilities, disability service sector professionals, and financial planning professionals, and multiple organizations that focus specifically on the needs of certain populations (i.e., an organization for professionals and an organization for people with disabilities and families).
	Experts did not agree on the role of an organization to provide oversight, particularly for professionals involved in future financial planning. Some experts cautioned that additional oversight would further deplete a limited pool of professionals or add additional red tape to an already complex process for future financial planning. However, other experts, particularly family members of people with disabilities, noted that without oversight, the savings and finances of people with disabilities can be at risk. They also recognized that financial planning professionals can and do help people make decisions about their finances that might threaten or disqualify eligibility for public benefits with little or no consequences to the financial planning professionals. While additional oversight may not be the most effective strategy, there was consensus about a national organization to offer continued support, resources, information, and technical assistance is needed .
Justification	From the Report
	92% of people with disabilities, 94% of family members, 77% of professionals feel there should be oversight of future financial planning process (p.25)
	Disability sector professionals rated confidence in their knowledge of future financial planning low, indicating need for trusted place for information and resources (p. 25)
	Low confidence in capabilities and intentions of family members and professionals indicated need for trusted place for information and resources (p. 20)
Interviewees named lack of vetted resources and oversight of professionals as barriers to financial planning (p. 10)	
In Plain Language	One way to help people with disabilities and their families save and plan for their futures is to have an organization give people information, resources, and tools they need. This organization can train people with disabilities and their families. It can offer tools and resources, like planning guides and money saving apps.

Resources	
Focus	Recommendations related to Resources focus on tangible and virtual resources that will help stakeholders successfully access, engage in, and maintain savings and future financial plans.
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities
Components	Resources Include
	Provide up to date information, materials, and resources about legislations, regulations, rules, available services
	Online community of practice for connections and information sharing
	Accessible financial management apps
	Bank/ Financial Institution resources that help people open and maintain accounts
Ideas for Implementation	Decision trees and checklists to guide people through financial planning process
	One way to build or expand resources that may be most useful to people with disabilities and families is through trusted and vetted applications (app) or websites that can help people understand and manage their finances and plan for their short- and long-term financial futures while maintaining their benefits and services . Experts noted that several apps currently exist that are not geared toward people with disabilities or families who need to ensure that they maintain eligibility for public benefits. However, these apps provide models of financial management, decision making, and planning that could be replicated and tailored to be accessible and useful to people with disabilities and their families.
	Because many people with disabilities and families are underbanked, and because access to banks and financial institutions are a crucial aspect of financial saving and planning, banks and financial institutions have the opportunity to create resources that help people open and maintain accounts that also protect their benefits and services .
Justification	Experts recommended the development of resources that include information, checklists, and decision trees that help people with disabilities and their families make informed decisions about financial planning services and professionals needed to set up and maintain their accounts . They shared that the creation of these resources would help address issues that people with disabilities and their families face related to finding and selecting financial planning services. They also noted that these resources could build on existing tools that have been designed to help people make decisions about their futures, service eligibly, and support needs. The organization or structure described in the previous recommendation could take on the role of development. Some experts also recommended that banks, insurance companies, and other organizations that benefit monetarily from the financial planning and accounts of people with disabilities and their families should invest in the development of these types of resources.
	From Research
	From the Report
In Plain Language	People with disabilities often experience economic exclusion , are underbanked, or do not have access to financial resources.
	There are existing tools that can be replicated/ can inform tools to help people plan and save.
	73% of people with disabilities, 54% of families, and 71% of professionals shared they experience challenges in future financial planning process (p. 18)
	Interviewees named lack of resources and complex process to access trusted resources as a primary barrier to future financial planning (p.10)
	One way to help people with disabilities and their families save money and plan for their futures is to create phone apps or banking apps that can help people decide how to save their money and keep their benefits and services. Tools that help people decide which financial plans are best for them could also be helpful.

Ongoing Supports and Services	
Focus	Recommendations for Ongoing Supports and Services focus on services that are available or could be created to improve the future financial planning process.
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities
	Disability Sector Professionals
	Benefits Eligibility Professionals
Components	Create or Scale Up Existing Services Including
	Embedding future financial planning in existing services and supports, such as Supported Decision Making, Person Centered Planning, Individual Support Planning
	Expanding knowledge about, availability of, and access to Benefits Counselors
	Utilizing financial coordinator who understands eligibility and benefits and can support financial planning and maintenance for people with disabilities
Ideas for Implementation	For people with disabilities and their families, experts made recommendations to utilize processes and training that exist and make them more available in the supports that people receive . For example, future financial planning can be included as an integral part of services that people with disabilities receive, such as Supported Decision Making, Person Centered Planning, and Individual Support/ Service Planning (ISP) processes. Further, expanding the availability and knowledge about existing services, such as benefits counselors, financial coordinators who understand rules related to saving, spending, and maintaining benefits, and person centered financial planning processes would improve peoples' knowledge and support to plan and manage their finances effectively. Implementing these recommendations would include the development and delivery of widespread training for disability service professionals as well as recruitment of benefits counselors and financial coordinators. There are some law firms that recruit and retain financial coordinators as a service to people with disabilities and families who use their services in financial planning. Education for financial planning professionals to understand the merit and need for this role may also help expand availability of these services.
Justification	From the Report
	People with disabilities and families name lack of knowledge and difficulty of setting up accounts as primary reasons for not having accounts (p. 17)
	Disability service professionals have less confidence in their knowledge or capacity to support people in future financial planning, indicating an opportunity to incorporate into existing services and supports offered (p.25)
	Interviewees named informed disability service professionals as a great resource to connect people to future financial planning resources (p.12)
In Plain Language	There are many services and supports that people with disabilities and their families can use for financial saving and planning. Person Centered Planning, Supported Decision Making, and Individual Support Planning should be used to help people make decisions about their money, savings, and financial plans. They could help make sure that people with disabilities have support to manage their money too. Benefits counseling and financial coordination can help people with disabilities and their families save and keep their services and benefits. There are not enough of these services to help people with disabilities and their families. We need more of these services to help more people with disabilities make good financial saving and planning decisions.

Research	
Focus	Recommendations related to Research focus on efforts to improve, replicate, and scale up systematic and empirical research about topics related to the future financial process to enhance knowledge about the experience and needs of stakeholders. Research will inform policy, training, education, and service delivery.
Who or What is Impacted	State and Federal Government Society
Components	Research Focusing On
	Understanding the population and needs of people with disabilities, particularly as it relates to their financial wellbeing
	Quantifying the financial contribution of people with disabilities to the economy
	Growing understanding of the challenges and facilitators to financial planning outlined in this study and previous research
	Policy analysis to assess current limitations to saving, managing, and spending that reduce control people have over their finances and ability to meaningfully save and spend their money
Ideas for Implementation	Federal funding, such as grants from the Administration for Community Living, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of the Treasury, could support studies of future financial planning on the topics listed above. Additional research funds could be made available through foundations, banks, insurance companies, or other organizations that profit from the investments of people with disabilities and their families. There are several universities that employ scholars and house programs that are invested in the financial wellbeing and planning for people with disabilities and their families. Competitive grants would allow these researchers to further contribute to knowledge and information that could improve rules, regulations, policies, services, and training available.
Justification	From the Report
	Experts shared that lack of research makes it difficult to advocate for legislative or regulatory changes when there is not empirical data to inform or justify change Respondents of the current study are not representative of population of people with disabilities. For example, while we know that there are significant disparities that people of color experience in services and financial support, we do not have the data to analyze differences in experience by race or ethnicity. More representative samples are needed in future research
In Plain Language	People who make laws do not know how rules and policies can limit the savings of people with disabilities and their families. More research is needed to show how people with disabilities and their families are impacted. More research is also needed to show what services, tools, and supports help people save their money and plan for their futures.

Recommendations for a Repository | Information related to future financial planning is available across the nation from various organizations and businesses, as well as throughout the Internet on an array of websites. However, the information is not readily accessible to people with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who work with them because there is no central repository of information that is vetted to be free of false information and business marketing. Multiple diverse entry points each with their own motives can be confusing and misdirecting to people with disabilities, their families, and professionals. A trusted central resource is needed to guide people in their search for useful information from the beginning through the end of the process of future financial planning. Further, due to the complicated nature of future financial planning, there is no one-size-fits-all solution and so professionals and families also need a platform to ask more questions more specific to their personal situation and their state of residence.

Repository		
Focus	Recommendations for a Repository focus on platforms for relaying up-to-date resources and information on future planning for families and providers.	
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities	
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities	
	Disability, Financial, and Legal Sector Professionals	
Components	Static One-Stop Platforms	A trustworthy source of information downloaded by the public to their phone or tablets from an app store for free or a small fee or accessed from the internet allowing them to access organized resources and information.
	Live Virtual Communities	Publicly sourced information between people with disabilities and their families or between professionals by professionals where people ask questions and other people on the forum respond.
Ideas for Implementation	Static One-Stop Platforms	<p>Static one-stop platforms should be updated every few months with new resources that could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • federal legislation/regulations information • links to government websites • links to stat-specific websites and resources • descriptions of services and processes • best practices documents • guidance about how to vet professionals • common pitfalls avoid in the process • directory of service providers (legal, financial, advocacy and disability related) • recommended books, publications, reports, recent research • calendar of events (webinars, workshops, trainings, conferences, etc.) • help desk or live chat with an expert • virtual decision tree to help guide people through the process <p>Such a platform would need staff to update the information regularly and seek out or solicit information from professionals and organizations. The platform would also require funding for a website domain or app development and ongoing marketing and outreach will be needed to advertise the platform. The platform should also aim to satisfy web-based disability accessibility standards.</p>

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<p>Ideas for Implementation</p>	<p>Live Virtual Communities</p>	<p>A platform for publicly sourced information would rely on members or the general public posting, responding, or reviewing questions and information themselves. This platform could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • posted expectations for conduct and posts to the forum • disclaimer from any legal responsibility • links to federal and state-specific websites and resources • files that include basic information about future financial planning, best practices, and related policy • help desk or live chat with an expert <p>Such a platform would be a place where anyone could post or respond, and so consideration should be given to having staff screen information to avoid spread of misinformation. The platform would also require funding for a website domain or app development and ongoing marketing and outreach will be needed to advertise the platform. The platform should also aim to satisfy web-based disability accessibility standards.</p>
<p>Justification</p>	<p>From the Report</p>	<p>How much access to resources and knowledge families have can influence their ability to navigate the future financial planning process (p. 10).</p> <p>Survey results showed that professionals who work in a disabilities-related field have significantly <i>less</i> confidence in guiding people through the future financial planning process and <i>less</i> knowledge of ABLE accounts, special needs first and third-party trusts, and pooled accounts than professionals who work in a field <i>not</i> focused on disabilities (p. 23).</p> <p>Family members rated their confidence that financial professionals have the knowledge and skills needed to help people make financially sound decisions and maintain their public benefits at a 5.57 out of 10, on average (p. 32).</p>
<p>In Plain Language</p>	<p>People with disabilities, their family members, and professionals can learn a lot from experts and other people like themselves who have already been through the process. It would help people if they could connect with other people like themselves online through an app or website to ask or answer questions and get specific information. It would also help people to get information through a website that has general, new information.</p>	

Recommendations for an Oversight Organization | Without oversight of the future financial planning process, professionals can take advantage of or fail to act in the best interest of people with disabilities with little or no consequences, leaving people with disabilities and their families unprotected. Our research indicated that this oversight organization should be a *guiding* entity to prevent issues rather than a *regulatory* entity to penalize professionals after issues arise. Additionally, because there are already several requirements and regulations need to be met by professionals, adding a regulatory organization could discourage or deplete an already sparse field of professionals and services.

Oversight Organization	
Focus	Recommendations related to an Oversight Organization focus on a collaborative entity that would offer guidance to families and providers and continue to formulate, refine, and uphold best practices in the field of future financial planning.
Who or What is Impacted	People with Disabilities
	Families and Guardians of People with Disabilities
	Legal, financial, and disability professionals
Components	Single Organization An entity that would serve as a central access point to assist people with disabilities and their families understand the elements and processes of future financial planning and connect people with available and vetted professionals, services, and resources that could support them in every stage of financial planning and management.
	Coalition
	State Specific Branches An entity/branch of an entity in each state that would serve as a central access point to assist people with disabilities and their families understand the elements and processes of future financial planning and connect people with available and vetted professionals in their state, state services, and resources that could support them in every stage of financial planning and management.
Ideas for Implementation	Families believed that banks should take the lead on guiding people through the future financial planning process since they are the ones who benefit the most financially from people with disabilities and families having accounts.
	People with disabilities believed that the federal government should provide guidance to people about the future financial planning process since it is the entity that is most familiar with how public services are influenced by future financial accounts and they have the largest reach over the population being served.
	Professionals and guardians with disabilities believed that associations devoted to disability support or advocacy should be the ones to guide people through the future financial planning process since they are motivated by serving the best interest of people with disabilities.
Justification	From the Report People with disabilities and their families names “Don’t know enough about them” as a top 5 reason for not having a future financial account (p. 17)
	The majority of people with disabilities (92%), family members (94%), guardians (84%), and professionals (77%) thought that there should be oversight of the future financial planning process (p. 24)
	People with disabilities and family members of people with disabilities rated their experience with future financial planning a 6.2 out of 10, while guardians gave a rating of 5.5 out of 10 (p. 18)
In Plain Language	An organization that helps people with disabilities and their families with future financial planning is needed. This organization could be national or different in each state, since states are different in the accounts and services they have. Banks, the federal government, or disability groups could lead the organization.

Recommendations for Potential Sources of Funding | Funding is available to support future research related to future financial planning for people with disabilities, an organization for oversight and guidance, a repository of information, outreach and advocacy, and other recommendations made in this framework. This funding can come from government sources, private foundations, and for-profit businesses. Funding sources listed here are entities that have a history of allocating funds to initiatives that are related to people with disabilities and financial literacy or financial planning. Many potential funding sources outlined here have active grants that can be awarded to researchers and professionals affiliated with universities and research entities or awarded to non-profit organizations. Typically, grants are time dependent, and may be offered one year, but not the next, therefore, while some specific grants may be mentioned, the focus in this framework is on the sources of funding rather than particular grants.

Funding	
Focus	Recommendations related to Funding focus on organizations, foundations, and businesses that have funded similar projects in the past.
Who or What is Impacted	Research entities
	Organizations or groups within organizations focused on advancing future financial planning processes for people with disabilities and their families, which could include non-profit or for-profit organizations, universities, research centers, parent advocacy groups, government entities, etc.
Components	Relevant Funding Aim
	Research
	Program development
	Training/education
	Outreach/marketing/awareness
	Advocacy
Ideas for Implementation	<p>The following foundations have current grants available for research related to disability and/or financial planning:</p> <p>The National Bureau of Economic Research awards grants and fellowships for research centered around economic or policy related to retirement and disability, such as the NBER Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Retirement and Disability Research. www.nber.org</p> <p>The Borchard Foundation Center on Law and Aging awards grants for research that will enhance the quality of life for older adults, including policy related to disability. www.borchardcla.org</p> <p>The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College awards grants for studies of trends in disability, economic security of public benefits beneficiaries, and more, such as the Steven H. Sandell Grant Program in Retirement Research. www.Crr.bc.edu</p>

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<p>Ideas for Implementation</p>	<p>Foundation Funding for Organizations or Projects</p>	<p>The following foundations have current grants available for programs or initiatives related to disability and/or financial planning:</p> <p>The Meadows Foundation awards grants related to a broad range of causes related to disabilities, including independent living for people with disabilities, disability rights, and self-advocacy. The foundation funds diverse projects including program support, research, seed money, and system and operational improvements. www.mfi.org</p> <p>The Annie E. Casey Foundation awards grants focused on economic opportunity, including education and training, policy advocacy and analysis, research and evaluation, and community and resident engagement. www.aecf.org</p> <p>The Ford Foundation awards funding to projects that address the political, economic, and cultural barriers that exclude marginalized populations. www.fordfoundation.org</p> <p>The Evergreen Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations to support those with mental health, developmental delays, or substance abuse issues. Grant priorities include scholarships to enhance the quality of the provider network, public awareness and education, and advocacy. www.Evergreenfoundationnc.org</p> <p>The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation awards project grants to non-profit organizations to programs and scientific research aiming to improve the quality of life for those with spinal cord injury. www.Chnfoundation.org</p> <p>The People with Disabilities Foundation awards small grants to non-profit organizations aimed at benefitting people with psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities. www.pwdf.org</p> <p>The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation awards grants serving the needs of people experiencing poverty, including people with disabilities. Priority communities served include the major metropolitan areas of Baltimore, Chicago, Hawaii, Israel, New York City, Northeastern Pennsylvania, and San Francisco, as well as adjacent rural communities. www.Hjweinbergfoundation.org</p> <p>The Flagstar Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations in California, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin geared toward developing financial capability, such as through homebuyer and credit counseling, financial literacy programs, and training on money management, predatory lending, and identity theft. www.flagstar.com</p> <p>The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism awards small grants to non-profits and schools in Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont geared toward promoting access to services and adult independence, including training related to job skills and financial literacy. www.flutiefoundation.org</p>
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<p>Ideas for Implementation</p>	<p>Funding from Banks or Businesses</p>	<p>The following national banks and businesses have funded projects in the past related to disability and/or have separate divisions devoted to special needs planning and may be willing to fund future projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of America • CITI Community Development • JPMorgan Chase • Wells Fargo • Prudential • First National Bank • MetLife Center for Special Needs Planning • Fidelity • Voya Financial • Morgan Stanley • UnitedHealth Group
	<p>Government Funding</p>	<p>The following government departments have funded projects in the past related to disability and financial literacy and planning and may be willing to fund future projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy • Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living • Department of Education, Rehabilitative Services Administration • National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research • US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration • Ticket to Work Program <p>In addition to funding from national or regional foundations, banks, and businesses, collaboration with existing groups with similar goals within each state could be established. State developmental disabilities councils and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities may have available funds to devote to projects with a focus on financial literacy training or policy related to future financial planning for people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Justification</p>	<p>From Research</p>	<p>The number of aging people with disabilities is increasing while the funding and resources allocated to those with disabilities remains limited.</p>
	<p>From the Report</p>	<p>Experts confirm that more funding is needed to sustain future efforts to advance future financial planning, particularly to marketing existing supports and programs and to form a repository and organization that can serve as central hubs of information and direct people to trustworthy resources.</p> <p>Families and experts shared in interviews that more resources should be put toward training benefits counselors, financial and disability experts, and public benefits officers.</p>
<p>In Plain Language</p>	<p>Funding is needed to grow ongoing projects and start new ones. Research, training, a guiding organization, and a website to help people learn about the future financial planning process can be funded through different state and national organizations, like banks, disability groups, and private foundations.</p>	