



Lake County, Ohio

COUNTY OF LAKE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Adopt Resolution Establishing STABLE Accounts for Lake County Employees with a Disability or Loved Ones with a Disability

PAINESVILLE, OH, May 28, 2020 - "With the adoption of today's Resolution, Lake County continues to not only adopt best practices, Lake County establishes best practices, with Lake County being the first county in the State of Ohio to adopt the STABLE Account Program," said Commissioner President John R. Hamercheck.

"Ohio Treasurer Sprague has done an exceptional job of modernizing his office including the updating of the STABLE Account Program. I knew the time was right for Lake County to become the first county to adopt the program for our employees," Hamercheck said.

The STABLE Account Program grew out of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, federal legislation that passed in December of 2014. Prior to ABLE accounts, people utilizing the assistance of public benefit programs were limited to having no more than \$2,000. With the creation of ABLE accounts, these individuals could then have the opportunity to be financially independent and continue to receive necessary supports. The ABLE Account Program enabled people with disabilities to save money without impacting their eligibility for public benefit programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

The STABLE Account Program is the most-used ABLE program in America. The Office of the Ohio Treasurer of State administers the STABLE Account program. As a nationwide program, STABLE Account serves people not only in Ohio, but also in eleven partner states as well as in every state in the U.S.

“Because we value our employees, with the STABLE Account Program, we are proud to partner with employees that have disabilities and employees who support a loved one with a disability. This “employer benefit” has no cost to Lake County, and offers the opportunity for employees to direct their own wages into this tax-advantaged account,” Hamercheck said.

STABLE Account staff and Lake County will work collaboratively to facilitate the ability for employees to make direct deposits into STABLE Accounts.

There is no cost to Lake County to make it possible to offer direct deposit into a STABLE Account. The collaboration simply educates employees about STABLE Account and provides instruction to the employee on how to establish the direct deposit through the County’s payroll system. The process is the same used for adding any other bank account as a secondary account that receives money from the employee’s paycheck.

There is no contract or formal agreement necessary. The Office of the Ohio State Treasurer would collaborate with Lake County and operate together through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure the ability to make direct deposit into STABLE Accounts.

The use of STABLE Account by employees is completely voluntary and supported by the STABLE Account administrative team and customer service. No direct support is needed by Lake County in assisting an employee with his/her STABLE Account.

“I appreciate the Commissioners approving the STABLE Account program. What a tremendous initiative of support for those with disabilities. My office will be working with the State Treasurer’s office to implement the program in Lake County,” said County Auditor Chris Galloway.

“Public leadership is about constructively applying a vision that positively impacts people. Treasurer Sprague has done just that with the STABLE Accounts. He is finding a creative way in his role as Treasurer to impact the lives of thousands of Ohioans who deserve every opportunity to share in our society’s success. I’m thrilled to be a partner in that good work. Kudos to him!” Galloway said.

“The bottom line is the STABLE Account will give employees an opportunity to invest in their future. They will have the ability to work more hours without worrying about losing their benefits, allowing them to increase their productivity and to better serve the people of Lake County,” Hamercheck said.

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