

Individual Development Account (IDA)

Fact Sheet 2021

What is an IDA?

An IDA is a special savings account for families with low income. They help individuals save a portion of their work earnings for purchasing their first home, for post-secondary education, or for starting a small business. IDAs are special accounts where the person's contributions are matched \$1 for \$1 or even more, depending on the participating organization.

Who is eligible for IDAs?

Most organizations will limit applicants to those individuals whose income level is 200% or less of the Federal Poverty Income level. IDAs are offered through programs that involve partnerships between local non-profit organizations and financial institutions (banks or credit unions). IDA opportunities may be available through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), non-profits granted federal monies that are specifically designated for IDA development, or through for-profit organizations.

What is the eligibility criteria?

Many IDA programs require that all or part of an individual's savings come from work earnings. Eligibility criteria can vary depending on the program sponsor and their funding sources. Criteria can include, but is not limited to, credit history, credit score, and assets.

Note: Your credit history and/or score could prevent you from qualifying.

How does this work?

A participant will open an IDA account with a partnering financial institution and will make deposits according to the IDA agreement.

Note: Public cash benefits are not considered work earnings, and cannot be used to fund an IDA.

Can an IDA impact my public benefits?

No. IDA individual deposits, matching contributions, and any interest earned will not impact Social Security or DTA eligibility and/or cash benefits.

Where can I find an IDA program near me?

The IDA Directory (https://cfed.org/programs/idas/directory_search/) allows you to locate IDA providers in your area. Either use the map or enter the agency name, city, state or zip code to see a list of programs matching your search criteria.

A Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC) can help you understand IDAs to determine if they are right for you.

For more information about **Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling** contact

1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675) or visit <http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/benefits-counseling/>