



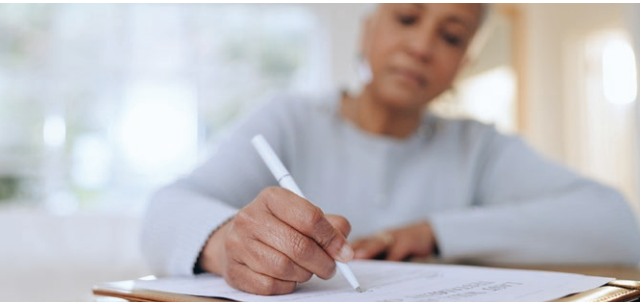
SINGLE? YOU STILL NEED AN ESTATE PLAN

Estate planning isn't just for married couples or parents. If you're single with no children, an estate plan can help ensure your wishes will be carried out, and important decisions remain in trusted hands. If you don't have one, courts or state law may determine how decisions are made and assets are distributed.

PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Without a will, state intestacy laws generally determine who inherits assets. While beneficiary designations may control certain accounts, assets without beneficiary designations or joint ownership typically pass according to state law. For singles with no children, state law may call for assets to be distributed to relatives such as parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, or cousins. If no relatives can be located, assets may pass to the state. A will can help ensure your assets go where you intend.

For wealthier singles, there are also estate tax considerations. Singles can't take advantage of the doubled estate tax exemption available to married couples who plan properly. Singles with significant



assets should consider estate planning techniques such as trusts to help minimize taxes.

Estate planning also addresses decisions during your lifetime. Powers of attorney can allow someone you trust to handle financial matters and make medical decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated.

NEXT STEPS

Creating a will, powers of attorney and trusts, if needed, can help protect your wishes and provide peace of mind. Work with your attorney and us to develop an estate plan that will help make sure your assets are distributed according to your intentions. ■

A NEW TYPE OF TAX-ADVANTAGED ACCOUNT FOR CHILDREN

Families looking for another way to save for a child's future may want to consider Section 530A accounts. Created by last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, these tax-advantaged savings accounts, also known as "Trump Accounts," are designed to help children build long-term assets. The ability to contribute became available on July 4, 2026. And some children may be eligible for a \$1,000 government-funded deposit.

THE BASICS

A 530A account can be established for any U.S. citizen who'll be under age 18 at the end of the tax year and who has a Social Security number. Eligible children born from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2028, may also qualify for the \$1,000 government contribution.

You can set up a 530A account by filing Form 4547, "Trump Account Election(s)," through the online portal, trumpaccounts.gov. You can then track Form 4547 through your IRS online account.

You and any other individual, such as a grandparent, can make annual contributions up to a combined limit of \$5,000 (adjusted for inflation starting in 2028) until the year your child turns 18. The \$1,000 government contribution doesn't count against the annual limit.

BEYOND FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS

Employers may establish programs to contribute to employees' 530A accounts. An employer can generally

contribute up to \$2,500 annually (adjusted for inflation beginning in 2028) for an eligible employee or dependent under age 18. (The annual employer contribution limit is \$2,500 per employee, regardless of the number of eligible dependents.)

These contributions count against the \$5,000 annual contribution limit. Employer contributions are excluded from the employee's taxable income.

TAX BENEFITS AND ACCOUNT RULES

Contributions aren't deductible for individual contributors, but account earnings grow tax-deferred as long as they remain in the account. Generally, no



FINDING THE BEST OPTION

Before making contributions to Section 530A accounts, consider whether other tax-advantaged savings options might better achieve your goals. For example, if your primary objective is funding a child's education, a Section 529 plan may be a better fit. Distributions used for qualified education expenses are tax-free, and some or all of a remaining balance may eventually be converted tax-free to a Roth IRA, subject to applicable requirements and limits.

If you determine that a 529 plan or other savings vehicle is better for your family, but your child would be eligible for the \$1,000 government contribution to a 530A account, seriously consider opening one. Even if *you* never make a contribution, the tax-deferred compounding growth on \$1,000 can lead to a substantial balance over time.

distributions can be taken before the year your child turns 18.

Until age 18, investments are limited to certain eligible mutual funds and exchange-traded funds that satisfy IRS requirements. In the year your child turns 18, the account will transition into a traditional IRA. It then becomes subject to the rules governing traditional IRAs. Future contributions generally require earned income and may be deductible if your child is eligible.

Also, starting with the year your child turns 18, distributions can be taken. But the distributions will generally be at least partially taxable, and IRA early withdrawal penalties could also apply.

SEEKING GUIDANCE

These accounts may provide significant long-term savings benefits. Consider how a 530A account fits into your overall financial strategy. If you need guidance, we're available to assist. ■

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BUSINESS FUNDING SOLUTION

Access to capital helps small businesses succeed and grow. Whether you need to cover cash flow gaps, fund expansion plans or invest in long-term assets, it's important to understand all your financing options. This will help you make informed decisions and select funding that aligns with your goals.

5 FINANCING OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

Your business may have access to several types of financing, with most options falling into five broad categories:

1. Lines of credit. This is a common form of financing because of its simplicity and flexibility. Once approved, businesses can borrow up to their credit limit whenever needed without reapplying. It can help meet periodic, temporary cash flow shortfalls. It's often wise to establish a line of credit before you need it, so funds are readily available.

2. Term loans. These loans are issued for a specific period. They're repaid with interest over a set number of years and are mainly used to purchase fixed assets, such as machinery, vehicles and equipment, or to support major business investments.

3. Commercial mortgages. This type of term loan is used to purchase new or existing commercial



property, including retail space, industrial warehouses and office buildings.

4. Government loan programs. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs, including 7(a) and 504 loans, are a significant source of funding for qualifying businesses. The SBA periodically updates program rules and lending limits, so review current SBA requirements before applying. Because the SBA guarantees a portion of these loans, lenders may extend financing to businesses that otherwise wouldn't qualify under standard underwriting criteria.

5. Equipment leases. When acquiring equipment, leasing may be a better option than purchasing it outright. This can be especially beneficial for technology

that may quickly become outdated. Leasing can help preserve cash flow while allowing businesses to upgrade equipment as needs change.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

Your business may also be able to access funding from less traditional sources. Examples include online lenders and specialized financing providers.

They may offer financing solutions that complement traditional lending options, including working capital loans, equipment financing and factoring. Factoring allows a business to receive cash based on outstanding customer invoices, helping improve short-term cash flow.

PLAN NOW FOR DEFERRING TAX ON ADVANCE PAYMENTS

With year-end fast approaching, now is a good time to review strategies that could affect your business's tax liability. One area that may deserve attention is the tax treatment of advance payments. Some accrual-basis businesses may be able to defer recognizing a portion of that income.

A TAX-PLANNING STRATEGY

For federal income tax purposes, advance payments generally must be reported as taxable income in the year received. This treatment always applies if your business uses the cash method of accounting for tax purposes. However, if your business uses the accrual method, it may qualify for favorable tax deferral treatment.

Accrual-basis businesses can elect to postpone including all or part of an eligible advance payment in taxable income until the year after it's received. To qualify, among other requirements, an advance payment must:

- Be at least partially included in revenue for a later year according to the business's applicable financial statement (AFS) or, if there's no AFS, be treated as earned in a later year, and
- Be received for goods, services or other eligible items listed in IRS guidance.

If your accrual-basis business receives eligible advance payments in 2026, you potentially can elect to defer reporting some or all of that income until 2027 for federal tax purposes.

THE AFS REQUIREMENT

An AFS can be an audited financial statement used for credit or financial reporting purposes, certain reports submitted to federal or state agencies, or a filing with

MOVING FORWARD

Some financing options may offer tax advantages. Interest paid on business loans, including lines of credit, term loans, commercial mortgages and SBA loans, may be deductible, subject to various rules and limits. Payments made under qualifying equipment leases are generally deductible as a business expense.

If you're considering borrowing or exploring alternative funding sources, contact us. We can help you evaluate your options, understand the financial and tax implications and identify financing solutions that best fit your needs. ■



the Securities and Exchange Commission, such as a Form 10-K or annual report.

If your business doesn't have an AFS and elects the deferral method, the advance payment generally must be included in taxable income in the year received to the extent your business treats it as earned that year. Any remaining amount is included in income the following year.

IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE PAYMENTS

Advance payments that may qualify for deferral include payments for services, goods, gift cards, intellectual property and computer software licenses, warranty contracts, and subscriptions. Certain other payments may also qualify under IRS guidance.

However, rents (with some exceptions), certain insurance premiums, payments for financial instruments and some service warranty contracts aren't eligible.

TIMING IS KEY

The rules surrounding the tax treatment of advance payments can be complex. Contact us to discuss whether your business may qualify to defer recognition of advance payments and how this strategy could fit into your overall tax-planning approach. ■