

-- Hello, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar. The title for today's webinar is "What You Need to Know About Medicaid for the Disabled, Blind and Blind". My name is Shajira Brown, and I will be going over some of our keytakeaway tips. The audio for today's webinar is being broadcast through your computer. Please make sure your speakers are turned on, or your headphones are turned on. You can control the audio broadcast via the audio broadcast panel. If you accidentally close the panel, you can reopen by going to the communicate menu at the top of the screen, and choosing "Join audio broadcast". If you do not have sound capabilities on your computer, or prefer to listen by phone, dial 1-404-476-1007, exten number 44077514. Real-time captioning is provided during the webinar. The captions can be found in the media viewer panel, which appears in the lower right corner of the webinar platform. If you want to make the media viewer panel larger, you can maximize other panels like chat, Q&A, and/or participants. For Q&A, please use the chat box, or Q&A box, to send any questions you have during the webinar, and we will direct them accordingly during the Q&A portion. If you are listening by phone and not logged into your webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing them to Ms. Shajira, which is shawbrown@ncr.org. Please note, this webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on the webpage, realtimecaptioning.com/our-work/financialcounseling. If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the chat box and send a message to Shajira Brown, program coordinator, or email her at shawbrown@ncr.org. With that, I'm going to turn it over to Nancy Kadiol, who will introduce you to our partners.

-- Thank you very much, Shajira, and yes, we are very happy to have Wanda Lopez with us, Francis Liu, and I also believe we have Abby with us from the Nycpr's office for People with Disabilities. And I will introduce them in one moment. Next slide, so just before I would introduce everyone, I would like to talk to everyone a moment about EmpoweredNYC, which is a groundbreaking new partnership dedicated to improving the financial stability of New Yorkers with disabilities and their families. EmpoweredNYC is a collaboration, an initiative that will create, test, and promote new strategies to enable New Yorkers with disabilities to improve their financial stability. This initiative will advance financial capability through broad engagement and education, tailored one-on-one financial counseling, enhanced with new expertise, outreach, and tools, and specialized benefits support purposes. We have many partners that are working with us on this project, the New York City Office of Financial Empowerment, the Nycpr's office for People with Disabilities, city community development, you will hear from those three entities in a moment; also National Disability Institute, the Nycpr's Fund to Advance New York City, Foster Family Foundation, and also we have a wonderful advisory board of municipal officers, disability service providers, and financial empowerment service providers as well. And with that, I would like to turn it over to Wanda Lopez from the office of Financial Empowerment.

-- Thank you, Nancy. The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs protects and enhances the daily economic lives of New Yorkers by creating thriving communities. And "NCR", as we call it, licenses more than 81,000 businesses, and over 10 industries, and enforces consumer protection, licensing, and workplace laws, ensuring truth in advertising, and that New Yorkers are able to take paid leave for sick time to care for themselves, or their loved ones. Within the Department of Consumer Affairs, we have the Office of Financial Empowerment, with a mission to educate, empower, and protect those with low income so they can build assets and make the most of their financial resources. And one of the largest programs within the office of Financial Empowerment is the financial