

>> Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the EmpoweredNYC Empowerment Ed series. Today's topic is Money and Benefits, Why Financial Empowerment is Critical to Work. We're very happy you decided to join us today and hope that this proves to be a very informative conversation for you. Before we get started, we're going to take a few minutes to go over some housekeeping tips, and so I am going to introduce my colleague, Shajira Brown who will share that information with you.

>> Hello everyone. The audio for today's webinar is being broadcast through your computer. Please make sure your speakers are turned on or your headphones are plugged in. 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. The audio for today's webinar is being broadcast-- If you do not have sound capabilities on your computer or prefer to listen by phone, dial 1-650-479-3207, event number 665-463-509. You do not need to enter an attendee ID. Real-time captioning is provided during this 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 minimize 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 the questions accordingly during the Q&A portion. If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing questions to sbrown@ndi-inc.org. Please note, this webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on this webpage, www.realeconomicimpact.org/our-work/financial-counseling. If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the chat box to send a message to Shajira Brown, Project Coordinator, or email her at sbrown@ndi-inc.org. With that, I'm going to turn it back over to Elizabeth Jennings.

>> Thank you so much Shajira. As Shajira mentioned, my name is Elizabeth Jennings. I'm a Deputy Director here at National Disability Institute. We're just one member of a multimember group that is supporting Empowered NYC. You're going to hear from a few of our partners today. Wanda Lopez is the Assistant Director of Special Projects with the New York City Office of Financial Empowerment. Frances Liu, the Vice President of Citi Community Development. And Abby Mayerhoff, the Program Manager of NYC ATWORK with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. You're also going to hear from my colleague, Nancy Boutot who's going to provide us the majority of our content today. For those of you who are new to us, we'd like to take a moment to share with you a little bit about EmpoweredNYC. This is a groundbreaking new partnership dedicated to improving the financial stability of New Yorkers with disabilities and their families. The EmpoweredNYC collaboration is an initiative that will create, test and promote new strategies to enable New Yorkers with disabilities to improve their financial stability. The initiative will advance financial capability through broad-based engagement and education, which are participating in today, tailored one-on-one financial counseling enhanced with new expertise, which we'll be launching in just a few months, as-- along with outreach and tools and specialized benefit support services, all provided through this pilot financial empowerment program. We have multiple strategic partners that we've brought together to be able to support EmpoweredNYC. You'll hear from a few of them today as I mentioned. The NYC Office of Financial Empowerment, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Citi Community Development, National Disability Institute, the Mayor's Fund to