

Hi folks, everyone, and welcome to Overview of 2011 Benefits and Work Support. We're really happy that you're able to join us for our webinar today. I'm going to start off by giving you some housekeeping rules. 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/podcast panel. If you accidentally close the panel, you can reopen by going to the communications 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 1-800-475-5207, exten-number 663704455. 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 listing by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing me to -- emailing me at cbrown@ndi-inc.org. Please note this webinar is being recorded and the materials will be placed on this webpage, ndi-inc.com/empowrnpd.org. If you experience any technical difficulties during the webinar, please use the chat box to send a message to Shajin Brown, project coordinator, at email her at cbrown@ndi-inc.org. With that, I'm going to turn it over to Nancy Boudet, my colleague.

Thank you so much, Shajin, and welcome everyone. My name is Nancy Boudet, and I work with National Disability Institute and work on this wonderful project that we are talking to you about today. So I want to say that I'm very happy that we have some partners with us today. Wanda Lopez, who is the assistant director of special projects for New York City Office of Financial Empowerment. We also have Francis Liu, the vice president of City Community Development. And we also have Michelle Jackson, the assistant commissioner Employment and Business Development for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. We're going to have them talk about their programs in just a moment. In the meantime, what I'd like to do is talk to you a little bit about Empowered New York City. Empowered NYC is a groundbreaking new partnership dedicated to improving the financial stability of New Yorkers with disabilities and their families. The Empowered NYC collaboration is initiatives 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 social engagement and education, tailored one-on-one financial counseling, enhanced with new expertise, as well as outreach and tools and specialized benefits support services. We have many partners that are involved in this project, so I would like to take a moment to mention them. That's the New York City Office of Financial Empowerment, The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, City Community Development, National Disability Institute. Also, the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, Patti Fund Foundation. And our wonderful advisory board of municipal offices, disability service providers, and financial empowerment service providers. So thank you all very much. And I would like to turn it over to Wanda to talk to us a little bit about OFE.

Thank you so much. I wanted to start out by saying that the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs protects and enhances the daily economic lives of New Yorkers to create thriving communities. The Department of Consumer Affairs licenses more than 85,000 business in over 50 industries and