

>> Good afternoon everyone. My name is Shajira Brown, Project Coordinator at National Disability Institute. Welcome to introduction to Introduction to EmpoweredNYC: Why Financial Empowerment is Important to Persons with Disabilities webinar. The audio or 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. If you do not have sound capabilities on your computer or prefer to listen by phone, dial 1-650-479-3207. That number is 666445483. 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 and A, and/or participants. For Q and A, please use the chat box or Q and A box to send any questions you have during the webinar, and we will direct questions accordingly during the Q and A portion if you listen by phone and not logged into 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 the web page <https://www.realeconomicimpact.org/our-work/financialcounseling>. 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. We have three partners participating today who will provide a brief introduction into their Empowered NYC initiative. Nichole Davis, Director of Programs, New York City Office of Financial Empowerment, Frances Liu, Vice President, Citi Community Development, and Martha Jackson, Assistant Commissioner Employment and Business Development, Mayor's Office of People with Disability.

>> Good afternoon, everyone. This is Elizabeth Jennings. I'm on staff at National Disability Institute, and just wanted to take a moment to step in and share with you a little bit of information 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 capabilities through broad engagements in education which you're experiencing today, tailored, one-on-one financial counseling, enhanced with new expertise, outreach and tools, and specialized benefit support services. We have many strategic partners that we're so grateful to have with us on this new adventure, 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 Advance New York City, Poses Family Foundation, an advisory board of municipal, excuse me, municipal offices, disability service providers, and financial empowerment service providers. And, all of you who've joined us on the line today. You're actually a very important, strategic partner to us because you will be the ones who are inviting others, your peers, other service providers, to join us each month as we provide you this broad based education. And, because you will be referring to us individuals who are in need of financial counseling and benefits planning and will benefit from these services. As Nichole Davis is not with us just yet, I'm going to share with you just a minute about Department of Consumer Affairs, or DCA and the Office of Financial Empowerment. DCA protects and enhances the daily economic lives of New Yorkers to create thriving communities,