

“Owning a home can change the whole family’s way of life. It really defines a family by bringing you closer together.”

—Lisa Long
financial education consultant, married
mother of 3, first-time home owner

can any couple get an MDA?

MDAs are available to DC residents only. Your combined income cannot be more than \$50,000, and your combined assets—excluding the value of your primary home and one vehicle—cannot be more than \$10,000. Engaged couples must marry while in the program in order to qualify for matching funds. ■

Why do assets matter?

- People with a bachelor's degree earn 62 percent more on average than those with only a high school diploma.*
- For households with incomes below \$20,000, the median net wealth of home owners was \$72,750 in 2001, vs. \$900 for renters.**

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

**Source: The Financial Returns to Low-Income Homeownership,
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SO, HOW DO I GET STARTED?

You'll find more information on our Web site at www.caab.org. Call us at (202) 419-1440 to request information by mail or sign up for the next MDA orientation session.

CAAB SAVING
FOR THE
FUTURE
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Capital Area Asset Building Corporation creates opportunities for people of all incomes to improve their financial management skills, increase their savings and build wealth. We believe that a prosperous community is one in which everyone has incentives and opportunities to save for the future.

SAVING & PROSPERING TOGETHER

MARRIAGE
DEVELOPMENT
ACCOUNTS



*a savings program to
help you achieve your dreams*

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO REACH YOUR GOALS?

Keeping your family on a firm financial footing—with savings instead of debt—is a smart way to ensure future happiness. Talking about your shared goals and working together to accomplish them can strengthen your family bond. Whether your dream is to own a home, further your education or start a business, hard work, dedication, and sacrifice will be required—but your family is worth it!

Good savings habits can help you and your partner accomplish your goals, build wealth, and increase your family's economic security. A Marriage Development Account will give you the skills and financial incentive you need to move forward.

what is an MDA?

Marriage Development Accounts (MDAs) provide a unique way for engaged and married couples to save for long-term financial goals. MDAs are joint savings accounts that are designed to encourage regular savings habits and investment in assets that increase in value over time. Couples identify a savings goal and deposit a certain amount of their earnings each month into their joint account. CAAB then matches these savings at a rate of \$3 of matching funds for every \$1 of personal savings.

The total of your personal savings and matching funds can be used to pay for expenses associated with buying a first home, attending college or vocational school, or starting or expanding a small business. ■

how does it work?

You and your partner agree to save a minimum amount of earnings each month. It might be \$50, depending on your goal. For each dollar saved, CAAB contributes three dollars. That \$50 amount then becomes \$200. The account also earns interest. You will receive a statement each month showing your contributions, interest earned, and the match you've earned, so you feel in control of your money.

Couples must save for at least six months in their MDA, and they have up to three years to reach their savings goal. CAAB will match up to \$3,000 in personal savings. With a match of \$9,000, that means you can put \$12,000 toward your qualifying asset purchase.

Example: You're saving for a downpayment on a house

*MDA matches
\$9,000 →*

You save \$3,000 →



If you attend four or more marriage counseling classes, you'll receive a \$300 bonus in your account. Engaged couples who marry while participating in the program will be eligible for an additional \$200 to pay for a marriage license and cover other costs.

Participating couples must attend at least eight hours of money management training, and additional training related to their chosen asset, such as homebuyer education or small business classes. The knowledge and skills you gain will help you use your savings wisely and protect your investment. ■

