

Tessa, Albany  
State House District 15  
State Senate District 8

Education IDA opened in 2022

“Initially I wanted to save to buy a home. I had recently finished graduate school, and was working at a professional level job where I was able to save money for the first time in my life.

Partway through the IDA program, they added more options, including student loan payment. This was actually a more pressing financial concern for me, and felt like it stood in the way of me saving for the home for which I'd originally entered the program. I switched to the student loan repayment program, and used the matching funds to pay of the majority of my remaining private student loans. Since paying those off, I've been able to start dreaming for the first time of someday being able to afford having kids; something that didn't feel possible with that debt looming over me.

The IDA allowed me to quickly pay off my private student loans without having to divert the majority of my income towards those payments. Instead, I've been able to steadily build savings, which have made me feel more stable in all aspect of my life. I'm able to afford emergency medical treatment for myself and my pet, I'm able to start working towards saving for a home, I'm able to think more clearly about how to budget for having kids someday.”

Date: 1/23/2024