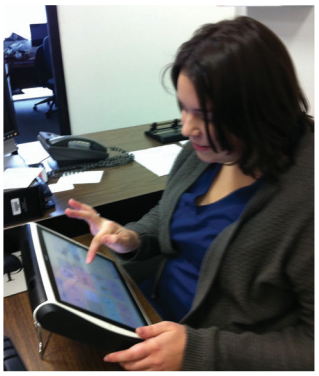


Connecting Oklahomans with Disabilities to Assistive Technology

Oklahoma ABLE Tech Annual Report 2014

ABLE Tech

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

www.okabletech.okstate.edu

2014 Key Activities

About Oklahoma ABLE Tech

Oklahoma ABLE Tech is the statewide Assistive Technology Act Program proudly located at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. ABLE Tech is funded through the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, which is made possible through the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended in 2004 (ATA 2004).

ABLE Tech's **mission** is to improve access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

ABLE Tech provides AT through comprehensive statewide programs and services, which include:

- Device Demonstrations
- Device Short-Term Loans
- Device Reutilization
- Bank Loans for AT and Employment
- Education Programs for Children and Youth
- Information and Communication Technology Accessibility

2014 Activity

Device Demonstrations: 2,096

ABLE Tech and its partners provided AT device demonstrations to Oklahomans across the state, including **558** demonstrations to children receiving services from SoonerStart.

Device Short-Term Loans: 1,605

Through the short-term loan program, individuals were able to try AT devices to help them with the decision-making process.

Device Reutilization: 1,741

The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange (OEE) facilitated the exchange of **1,033** AT devices from seller to buyer for a savings of **$249,722**. The Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP) provided **602** Oklahomans with **708** pieces of AT for a savings of **$378,816**.

Bank Loans for AT and Employment: 65

ABLE Tech provided loans totaling **$392,816** to help Oklahomans obtain needed AT devices and services to help them live, work, and learn independently.

Information and Referral: 2,914

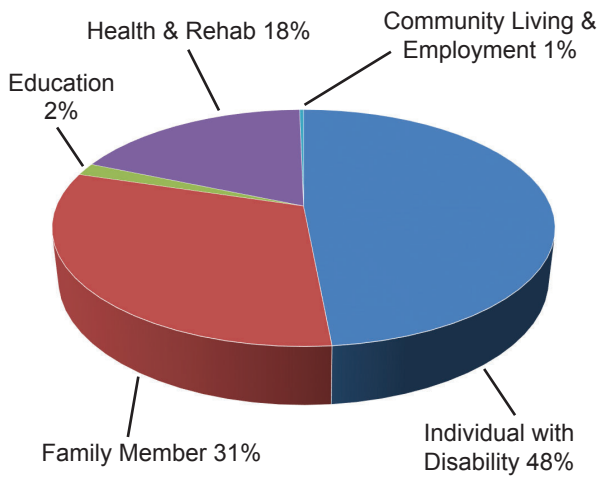
ABLE Tech helped Oklahomans receive information and referral sources on needed AT devices and services, including how to obtain funding for AT.

Training: 4,689

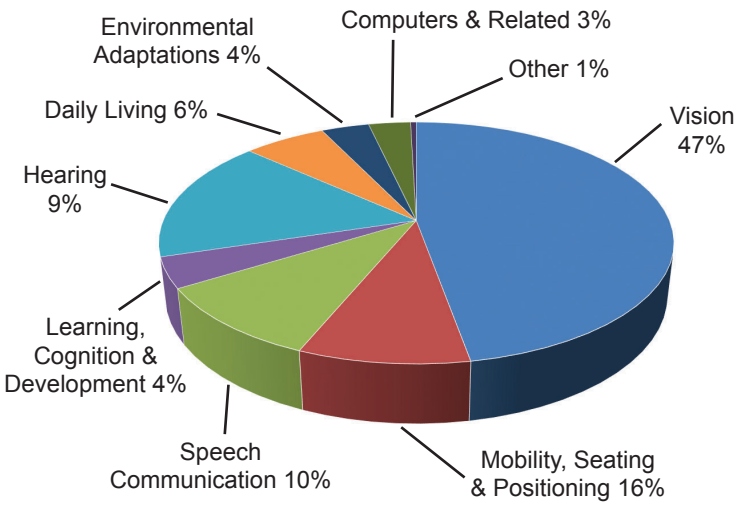
ABLE Tech served Oklahomans with disabilities, family members, service providers, advocates, and educators throughout events statewide.

Demo & Loan Program

TYPE OF PARTICIPANT



AT CATEGORY



Coordination & Collaboration

Service Delivery Highlights

AT Demonstration Centers

ABLE Tech and its partners provided **11** AT loan and demonstration sites to give Oklahomans an opportunity to touch, try, and borrow AT devices to help improve independence in the community, school, and workplace.

Device Short-Term Loans

ABLE Tech provided **507** AT device and software short-term loans to Oklahoma schools and students; **85** AT loans were for individuals with print disabilities.

Information Technology Accessibility

ABLE Tech provided training on accessible information technology including web access, telecommunications, software accessibility, and procurement to **1,060** state agency and post-secondary personnel.

AT Device Training

ABLE Tech provided training on AT devices and services to **4,689** individuals, disability-related organizations, state agencies, and higher education students including **2,381** public school educators.

Special Education Resolution Center

15 Special Education Due Process hearings were resolved by the Special Education Resolution Center (SERC) - keeping state dollars in the classroom educating students. Due Process proceedings can cost the state an average of **$300,000**; therefore, resolved hearing requests saved Oklahomans approximately **$4,500,000**.

Fire Safety

Through the Smoke Alarm Project, ABLE Tech partnered with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation and Fire Protection Publications to professionally install **2,096** smoke alarms and alert devices in **400** households of Oklahomans who are deaf or hard of hearing; a cost savings of **$138,995**.

AT Training for Educators

Through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, ABLE Tech provided training and technical assistance to **200** educators from **45** school district AT teams. Through a series of webinars and regional workshops, teams learned more about the consideration and implementation of AT for students with disabilities.

State Contracts

ABLE Tech maintains coordination and collaboration efforts that provide funding to help enhance the opportunities for individuals to access and acquire assistive technology.

Oklahoma State Department of Education

OkAT

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

DRS Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

ilru Southwest ADA Center

A Great Return on Investment

FY'14 Federal Investment: $417,706

Savings & Benefits for Oklahomans: $5,267,533

Spotlight on Success

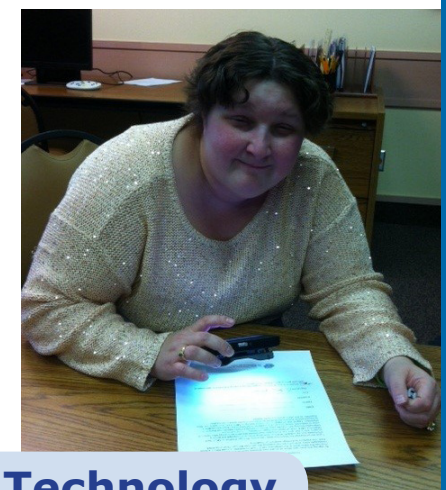
A 5 year old student received a candy corn proximity switch from ABLE Tech's partner, The Children's Center Rehabilitation Hospital. Diagnosed with a severe form of spinal muscular atrophy, the young student has very limited movement but the switch is a highly-sensitive sensor that does not require physical touch and is activated when a hand or other body part is within 10 millimeters. With the use of slings for her arms and the switch, she is able to move her hands to midline to activate voice-output devices to make requests, comments, direct actions, and participate in activities of daily living. She accesses two devices which allow her to engage in errorless, two-step scanning activities and participate in various communicative attempts by utilizing two voice-output devices with varied phrases. Through the device demonstration, her mother and the team learned that she could benefit from this type of switch and be able to independently participate in classroom activities.

Education

Through the help of NewView Oklahoma, a partner of ABLE Tech, an Oklahoma City resident was able to regain independence after losing her eyesight. Through the exploration of better lighting, assisted by several LED lights and handheld magnifiers, she was able to regain some of her independence. NewView staff also marked her appliances with special raised dots to help make daily living chores easier. She was shown different sunglass lenses to assist with glare both in and out of the home. She is now on her way to being more functional with reading and viewing tasks.

Community Living

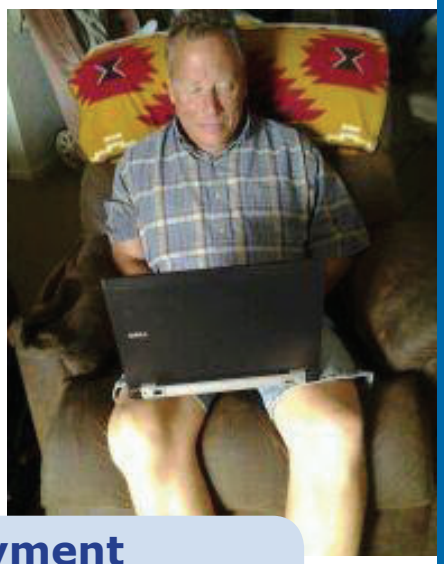
A young Oklahoma higher education student with a visual impairment received AT training from ABLE Tech's partner, the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Division of Visual Services. She received a SenseView handheld video magnifier, Acrobat 19' LCD, and a laptop computer. The computer and video magnifier have helped provide her the ability to read school textbooks and tests which has greatly improved her educational experience. All of the devices allow her more independence in everyday activities such as reading books and responding to emails.



Information Technology

Spotlight on Success

An Oklahoma native was in pursuit of a new career path, and sought out ABLE Tech to investigate what technology could help him do so. He had been legally blind since birth and continued to lose vision gradually over time. He could not read a computer screen or printed material, which was hindering his job search. ABLE Tech demonstrated devices that allowed him to explore ways to access the computer and printed material non-visually. He decided that JAWS, a program that speaks Windows and other third-party programs, was the best option. OpenBook also allowed him to scan printed documents and have them read aloud. His success with the AT has given him the opportunity to enroll in an ADA certification program to become a consultant. He states that, “I would like to help businesses to increase accessibility for all people by implementing reasonable accommodations and including accessibility in the design phase.”



Employment

Through the bank loan program, ABLE Tech partnered with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation and BancFirst to assist this Oklahoman with the purchase of an accessible van. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), the Pawnee County native soon realized that he would have limited mobility and require a specialized vehicle which could be difficult to afford. The loan program helped him purchase an accessible van, providing him with increased riding mobility and alleviating stress on his caregiver. The accessible van has allowed him to attend his community religious meetings on a regular basis and to be able to travel more. He states that, “It has given me more mobility, happiness, and satisfaction.”

Bank Loan

An Oklahoma County resident received a rollator walker from ABLE Tech’s Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP). He discovered OKDMERP through his healthcare provider, and could not have afforded the equipment on his own. The rollator walker allows him to walk around and sit on his own should his legs grow tired. One of his favorite things the equipment has provided him with is the ability to “get out and mingle.” He can now exercise and retrieve his own mail, and states that the walker has been a “big help.”

Device Reutilization

Oklahoma ABLE Tech Staff

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