

# Oklahoma ABLE Tech

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Connecting Oklahomans with Disabilities to Assistive Technology  
[www.okabletech.okstate.edu](http://www.okabletech.okstate.edu)

# 2015 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 Administration for Community Living of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is made possible through the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended in 2004 (ATA 2004).

## 2015 Activity

### ■ Device Demonstrations: 4,015

ABLE Tech and its partners provided AT device demonstrations to Oklahomans across the state, including **1,425** demonstrations to children receiving services from SoonerStart.

### ■ Device Short-Term Loans: 2,194

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

### ■ Device Reutilization: 1,752

The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange (OEE) facilitated the exchange of **1,199** AT devices from seller to buyer for a savings of **\$179,445**. The Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP) provided **955** Oklahomans with **1,196** pieces of AT for a savings of **\$703,733**.

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

### ■ Bank Loans for AT and Employment: 57

ABLE Tech provided loans totaling **\$317,034** to help Oklahomans obtain needed AT devices and services to help them live, work, and learn independently.

### ■ Information and Referral: 2,473

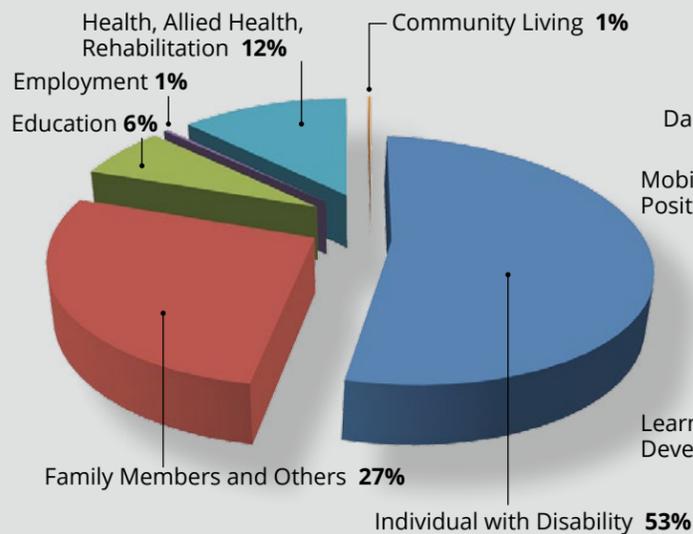
ABLE Tech helped Oklahomans receive information and referral sources on needed AT devices and services, including how to obtain funding for AT.

### ■ Training: 3,697

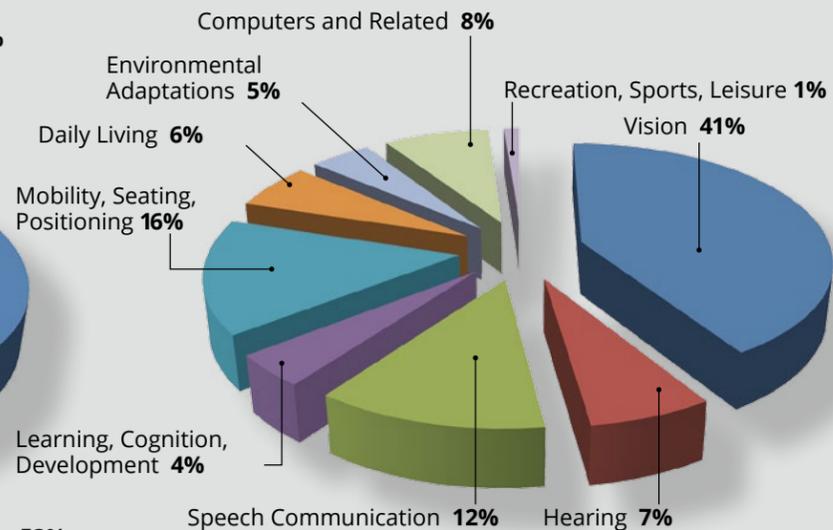
ABLE Tech served Oklahomans with disabilities, family members, service providers, advocates, and educators throughout the state.

## Demonstration and 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 **531** AT device and software short-term loans to Oklahoma schools and students; **82** 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 **735** state agency and post-secondary personnel.

### AT Device Training

ABLE Tech provided training on AT devices and services to **3,697** individuals, disability-related organizations, state agencies, and higher education students including **1,541** public school educators.

### Special Education Resolution Center

**16** 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 **\$4,800,000**.

### Fire Safety

Through the Smoke Alarm Project, ABLE Tech partnered with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation and Fire Protection Publications to professionally install **2,466** smoke alarms and alert devices in **500** households of Oklahomans who are deaf or hard of hearing; a cost savings of **\$97,065**.

### AT Training for Educators

Through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, ABLE Tech provided training and technical assistance to **190** educators from **52** 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.



## A Great Return on Investment

FY'15 Federal Investment: \$419,964

Savings & Benefits for Oklahomans: \$5,780,243

# Success Spotlights

## Education

### Device Demonstration

Joshua is a young boy from Noble County who received therapy from NewView (ABLE Tech's AT Device Demonstration partner). The therapist helped him scan and track his environment to increase mobility and find his way. A good task lamp helped him by increasing the light for activities such as reading and game playing. Joshua has a 4x dome magnifier that helps him see better and it, too, will benefit his reading and math skills as they develop. The therapist definitely saw Joshua's confidence increase through the therapy process.



## Community Living

### Device Short-Term Loan

Patton, an 8-month old boy from Cotton County, has

bilateral hearing loss and wears

hearing aids. This young boy is active and wanted to play with a toy that would make puppies move and stop through an on/off switch. However, the switch was inaccessible due to the boy's age and lack of hearing/understanding. His mom was aware of switch adapters and requested one through ABLE Tech's Device Short-Term Loan Program. An AirLink Cordless Switch allowed him to control a toy easily. As he plays now, he is very proud of himself. His mother has seen how the switch allows him independence and reinforces his confidence.



## Employment

### Device Short-Term Loan

Debbie, an employee in the Oklahoma State University President's office, wanted to improve her overall health and wellness and one change she wanted was to sit less during the workday. She heard about a VariDesk, a convertible desk that offers both sitting and standing positions so she requested a 6-week loan through ABLE Tech's Device Short-Term Loan Program. After only 2 weeks of use, she asked her department to purchase one. Now that she has her own, she says, "I really appreciated the opportunity to 'try before buying.' I love it and would encourage others to give it a try."



# Success Spotlights

## Community Living

### Device Exchange

Jimmy, from Cleveland County, is sixty-three years old and suffers from mobility problems. He used ABLE Tech's online Equipment Exchange database to find a lift chair offered for free. ABLE Tech delivered the chair to him and Jimmy said, "It makes it more easy for me to get out of a chair. I can't get out of a regular chair so this lift chair makes it 100 percent easier."



## Community Living

### Device Reuse

Rachel, an Oklahoma County resident, is a repeat client of ABLE Tech's Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program. She was recently matched with a free manual wheelchair by filling out an application and having her doctor write a prescription. This manual chair allows Rachel more independence within her home and within her community. The chair is easy to fold up and put into the trunk of a car so Rachel can participate in life outside of her home.



## Employment

### Financial Loans

Victoria, from Payne County, received her first Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) at the age of 9. Now, fourteen years later, she needed to replace it. She reached out to ABLE Tech when she learned about the new Direct Loan Program. She applied as a single applicant and was able to borrow the needed funds to pay the insurance co-pay in order to receive the new BAHA receiver. Not only did this method prove to be a very economical and feasible way for Victoria to get the hearing assistance she needs, she is also building her credit rating for the future.



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Mary K. Chapman Center  
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Oklahoma City | 405.521.4880  
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the children's center  
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This publication is available in alternative formats; please call 800.257.1705 (v/tty) for more information. ABLE Tech is funded through the the Administration for Community Living of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and maintains coordination and collaboration efforts with partners throughout the State of Oklahoma. This publication does not necessarily reflect the position of the policy of ACL/HHS, and no official endorsement of the material should be inferred.