



Oklahoma ABLE Tech

The Statewide Assistive Technology Act Program

Success Stories

Oklahoma ABLE Tech is the statewide Assistive Technology Act Program proudly located at Oklahoma State University in the Department of Wellness. ABLE Tech is funded through 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. The funding provided helps enhance the opportunities for Oklahomans with disabilities to access and acquire needed assistive technology.



In July 2014, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) announced a 3-phase program to better accommodate blind and visually-impaired individuals in determining the denomination of the paper currency they hold.

After a comprehensive study, the BEP recommended 1) a raised tactile feature on currency – targeted for release in 2020, 2) a continuation of printing notes with high-contrast numerals and different colors, and 3) the launch of a nationwide currency reader distribution program in advance of the tactile-enhanced currency.

The third prong of the program, the currency readers, became widely available on January 2, 2015. Oklahomans are benefiting from the program as evidenced by the following success story.

Terry Raindon, NewView Tulsa, assisted a local resident with very low vision who could not distinguish the denominations of the paper money she held.

“When we first met, this woman showed me her purse with all her money stuffed into the middle,” said Terry. She took all of these bills out one-by-one and asked Terry what each bill was. Although she tried to organize the “like” currencies into areas of her purse so she would know what they were at the store, it was still not an accurate or practical method.

On a next visit, Terry demonstrated the **iBill Currency Reader** to her once again and she was excited to scan every bill and organize her wallet according to the different bills. The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation (DRS) requested an **iBill** for her to have as her own and she is now able to better identify her money for shopping and to make sure any change she receives in paper money is correct.



The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) is a national, member-based organization, comprised of state AT Act programs.



The U.S. Currency Reader Program, under the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, partnered with ATAP to distribute and document the impact of the iBill currency readers prior to the launch of the raised tactile currency feature.

Contact Oklahoma ABLE Tech by calling toll-free (800) 257-1705; email: abletech@okstate.edu; or visit www.okabletech.okstate.edu