

## SoonerStart News

### 3rd Quarter: Comanche County Team

This SoonerStart team will receive new assistive technology (AT) to include in their county kit. Infants and toddlers under 3 years old and their families will be able to receive demonstrations of the new AT items. These services help families determine appropriate accommodations for children and decide whether or not they need AT.

*Congratulations,  
Comanche County!*



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## ABLE Tech Updates & Resources for Finding and Funding Assistive Technology

Teachers and parents often ask ABLE Tech staff for help finding tools to help children with disabilities succeed in school. As Oklahoma's Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program, ABLE Tech has many resources for not only finding, but also funding AT for individuals of all ages and needs.

AT is defined as any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve a person's capabilities, allowing them to function independently in recreation, education, employment, and daily living activities. Examples include speech communication devices, electronic magnifiers, and personal amplification systems.

ABLE Tech provides services for students in public schools through a contract with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Educators and family members can access ABLE Tech [AT Consultation services](#), and borrow devices through the [Device Demonstration and Loan Program](#). ABLE Tech also offers [informational videos](#), webinars and workshops focusing on the provision of AT to students in public schools.

ABLE Tech recently updated the [Technical Assistance Documents for Assistive Technology \(AT\) and Accessible Educational Materials \(AEM\)](#) which explain, in easy-to-



understand terms, what assistive technology schools are required to provide to students with

disabilities. The document

for AT is comprehensive, covering all types of AT devices and services. The document for AEM explains how to provide textbooks, workbooks, novels, and other curricular materials in specialized formats, such as Audio, Braille, Large Print, and Accessible Digital Text.

ABLE Tech also recently introduced a new [AT Discovery](#) section, designed to make information easier to find. Each AT Discovery page covers a different category of AT, such as vision, hearing, speech, etc., and provides considerations, case studies, and recommendations of devices to try.

Each page also lists potential funding sources and links to the funding manual, "[OK Funding for Assistive Technology](#)" which explains the steps and strategies for acquiring AT and provides information about a wide range of public and private funding sources. The goal is to provide information necessary to select and acquire AT as easily as possible!

Learn more at [okabletech.okstate.edu](http://okabletech.okstate.edu) or call 800-257-1705.



## Teachers!

## Spotlight on Success:

The Comanche County SoonerStart team demonstrated a walker to a 34-month-old with scoliosis. Through the demonstration, it was determined that a gait trainer would be a better solution. The family used funding sources to obtain the gait trainer, and now the child can be independent with his mobility!



## ABLE Tech Partner Success Story



Mr. Shebester was having difficulties in many areas due to vision loss. His main goal was to be able to see his Bible and participate in church activities. It had been months since he was able to read, or to join in Bible classes. After demo-ing several devices he found that adding a 6X lighted hand-held magnification and positioned lighting from a floor lamp with a specific bulb enabled him to get back to reading the Bible and participating in Sunday school.

NewView also recommended yellow tinted glasses that helped cut down on glare, making it more comfortable to get outside. He also trialed TV glasses and positioned his TV where he could see the sports scores once again during games. A magnified mirror has helped him with personal grooming.

Mr. Shebester expressed his appreciation for help in all these areas and excitement that he is reading again. His wife expressed her thanks as well.

## Financial Tip: Dealing with Collections from a Credit Building Perspective

Paying off debt and collections, while often necessary and important, is not a credit building strategy in and of itself. In fact, paying off collections can sometimes cause a score to drop as it can refresh the last payment date on a negative account. However, paying collections can be essential to financial stability and peace of mind. Here are a few tips on negotiating collections without derailing credit building goals:



- Prioritize collections based on how much is owed, the interest amount, the age of the debt and how likely this debt(s) may turn into a judgement.

- Avoid entering into payment plans with debt collectors. Each payment made will make the date of last payment more recent on the credit report, refreshing the negative impact on the credit score. Instead, negotiate lump sum payments and let time heal the wound.
- Get all agreements and receipts of payment in writing. Check your credit report in 30-60 days to make sure that the accounts that have been paid are being reported correctly. (Even when paid in full, negative collection accounts will continue to stay on your credit report for seven years from the date of original delinquency. Fortunately, however, the damage to your credit score will lessen over time).

Want to learn more on this topic?

Visit [www.creditbuildersalliance.org](http://www.creditbuildersalliance.org)

## DRS and ABLE Tech Focus on Oklahoma's Workforce System

Did you know? Only 35.8% of individuals with disabilities are employed in Oklahoma compared to 75.2% of individuals without disabilities. The Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and ABLE Tech are partnering to launch a third year of training and technical assistance to help Oklahoma's Workforce System Partners meet the employment needs of job seekers with disabilities. Workforce partners help Oklahomans find gainful employment through services such as education, training, and skill preparation. Job seekers are matched with industries that need

well-qualified employees. Workforce partners include higher education institutions, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, America's Job Centers, CareerTech, and DRS. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is new legislation aimed at improving the national workforce system by helping job seekers with significant barriers to gain high-quality jobs. ABLE Tech and DRS provide assistance to workforce partners by addressing physical and technological barriers that often block access to programs for many job seekers with disabilities.

## Free Smoke & Alert Equipment!

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Fire Protection Publications, and Fire Service Training, are busy scheduling professionals to install FREE life-saving smoke alarms and alert equipment. Due to the award of a federal grant, installation can take place in approximately 650 homes throughout Oklahoma. This year's grant provides this life-saving equipment for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or have low vision or use a mobility device.

Spread the word! Tell your family, friends, church family, etc. – [to learn more, go to our website!](#)

  
**TechAccessOK**  
September 8, 2016 • Oklahoma City

Oklahoma ABLE Tech is thrilled to announce their one-day conference on information and communication technology accessibility! TechAccessOK is coming to Oklahoma City on September 8, 2016! Stay up with the [TechAccessOK page](#) for more information as we get things lined up! And feel free to share the word! (Can you tell we're excited?)

## Oklahoma Equipment Exchange



The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange (OEE) is a FREE program to help Oklahomans with disabilities acquire affordable equipment. To donate, sell, or locate equipment, visit our website or call us at 888.885.5588 (v/tty).

To the right is a quick preview of items you can find online at the exchange!

Item Description	Asking Price
Disposable Diapers & Underpads, several types and sizes	FREE
Wheelchair Cushions	FREE
Sitz Bath	FREE
Knee Braces	FREE
Oxygen Nasal Tubing	FREE
DynaVox Speech Device	For Sale & FREE
Several Manual & Power Wheelchairs	Various prices
Hospital Beds	Various prices

In Oklahoma City, you may call the Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP) at 405.523.4810 for FREE durable medical equipment such as canes, scooters, and hospital beds. Donations are always needed for items such as: wheelchairs, commodes, and walkers.

## Oklahoma AT Center Locations

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and its partners operate device demonstration and device loan programs to increase access to AT. Inventory is available and searchable online, and individuals may borrow devices for up to six weeks at no cost.

[www.oec.okstate.edu/loan](http://www.oec.okstate.edu/loan)



Oklahoma ABLE Tech



Hearing Loss Association



Department of Rehabilitation Services  
Visual Services Center Division



NewView Oklahoma



Department of Communication  
Sciences and Disorders



Total Source For Hearing Loss  
and Access



The Children's Center



Pathways Therapy Center



John W. Keys Speech and  
Hearing Center



Handicapped Vehicle Services



United Access Oklahoma

### ABLE Tech Assists With Financing Vehicle Modifications or Vehicle Purchase

The NHTSA estimates that purchasing a new vehicle modified with adaptive equipment can cost \$20,000 to \$80,000, so financial assistance may be necessary.

Luckily, Oklahoma ABLE Tech offers low cost, low-interest loans for just such a need. Along with OkAT and BancFirst, ABLE Tech offers financial loans over \$1,500 and up to \$20,000 to help

individuals with disabilities obtain a loan with a 36-month repayment term if unsecured or, a 60-month term if secured. The interest rate on the 36-month loan is 6% and 5% interest is charged on the 60-month loan. Closing fees are also low.

Check out ABLE Tech's Financial Loans webpage or call Shelley Gladden at 888.885.5588 (toll-free).

## Two New Partners Offering Vehicle Adaptations



Handicapped Vehicle Services ([www.hvsu.com](http://www.hvsu.com)) in Tulsa and United Access ([www.unitedaccess.com](http://www.unitedaccess.com)) in Oklahoma City have joined ABLE Tech's group of demonstration partners. Both companies are dedicated to providing one-on-one consultation and always putting the customer first.

People interested in finding more information on modified vehicles (cars, vans, trucks, scooters) and other adaptations (hand controls, wheelchair tiedowns, etc.) can visit the websites and/or showrooms of these dealers:

### Handicapped Vehicle Services Unlimited

7215 E. 46th Street  
Tulsa, OK 74145  
918.622.8400  
Open M-F: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed: Saturday & Sunday  
Website: [www.hvsu.com/](http://www.hvsu.com/)

### United Access

730 W. Hefner Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114  
888.939.1010 (toll-free)  
Open M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed: Saturday & Sunday  
Website: [www.unitedaccess.com/Oklahoma-City-OK.html](http://www.unitedaccess.com/Oklahoma-City-OK.html)

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## Events and Training

- AUG 25-26 | OK Rehabilitation Association Conference (ABLE Tech booth), Tulsa
- SEP 8 | TechAccessOK – ABLE Tech ICT Accessibility Conference, OKC
- OCT 3 | OTI Conference, Norman
- OCT 29 | OSDE AT Boot Camp, OKC

**Connect with us >>>**



This publication is available in alternative formats; please call 800.257.1705 (V/TTY) for more information. The Oklahoma State University Department of Wellness is the lead agency for Oklahoma ABLE Tech. 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.