

# Oklahoma ABLE Tech

## Assistive Technology Act Program for the State of Oklahoma

### CONNECTING OKLAHOMANS WITH DISABILITIES TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



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## ABOUT US

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).

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
- Financial Loans for AT and Employment



### *What is Assistive Technology?*

*Assistive Technology (AT) is 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.*

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY  
IS REDEFINING  
WHAT IS POSSIBLE.

# STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

## Training and technical assistance

Oklahoma ABLE Tech provides support to public and private entities that serve individuals with disabilities through training sessions and technical assistance. State and local agencies include early intervention programs, public education agencies, adult service programs, health care facilities, institutions of higher education, and businesses. Training topics include:

- AT skills-development training
- Use and application training
- Assessment and implementation training
- Technical integration training
- Transition assistance to individuals with disabilities

## Public awareness

ABLE Tech conducts public awareness activities to provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. ABLE Tech provides a statewide information and referral system through toll free phone numbers to help answer questions from individuals with disabilities, family members, and service providers. 800-257-1705 or 888-885-5588.

## Coordination and collaboration

ABLE Tech coordinates activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities of all ages in the State.

## ● DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS

ABLE Tech and its statewide partners operate assistive technology centers and a device demonstration program to increase access to and utilization of AT. Demonstrations give individuals the opportunity to see, touch, and try AT devices to help them in the decision-making process.

### **Demonstrations provide:**

- Hands-on exploration of AT
- Information on the latest technology
- Low-tech solutions and adaptations
- Vendor sources

### **WHO BENEFITS FROM AT CENTERS?**

**People with Disabilities**

**Family Members**

**Service Providers**

**Advocates**

**Educators**



*AT is a necessary part of running a business for this Oklahoman. Learning about AT while experiencing gradual vision loss has been a critical piece of independence. He reads braille through a refreshable braille device and can hear digital documents and websites through a talking tactile tablet.*

## ● DEVICE SHORT-TERM LOANS

ABLE Tech's device short-term loan program provides Oklahomans the opportunity to borrow assistive technology devices to:

- Make an informed decision before purchase
- Ensure compatibility between the device and user
- Have back-up equipment while waiting for repair
- Have a device while waiting for new equipment



The short-term loan program is available to any Oklahoma resident. Loan duration is from two to six weeks, is easy-to-use and free; devices are shipped statewide.

Our inventory offers a wide range of AT devices, including equipment for communication, computer access, hearing, vision, daily living, environmental adaptations, learning and development, health, safety, and recreation.

ABLE Tech's staff can also provide guidance on funding resources to help obtain needed AT.

*The ABLE Tech short-term loan program made it possible for this Oklahoma resident to borrow several devices for her computer that allowed her to communicate using on-screen typing with speech output. Her family reported that this opportunity gave her a "new lease on life."*





# Oklahoma ABLE Tech Assist



Meet

Flo has a  
She ne

AT informational materials  
interest her.

Public Awareness

An AT pro shows Flo  
products and how to  
use them.

Demonstration

Flo gets a reused  
product at no or little cost.

Flo likes th  
and wants

Flo decides to donate  
or sell the product.

Reutilization  
Acqui

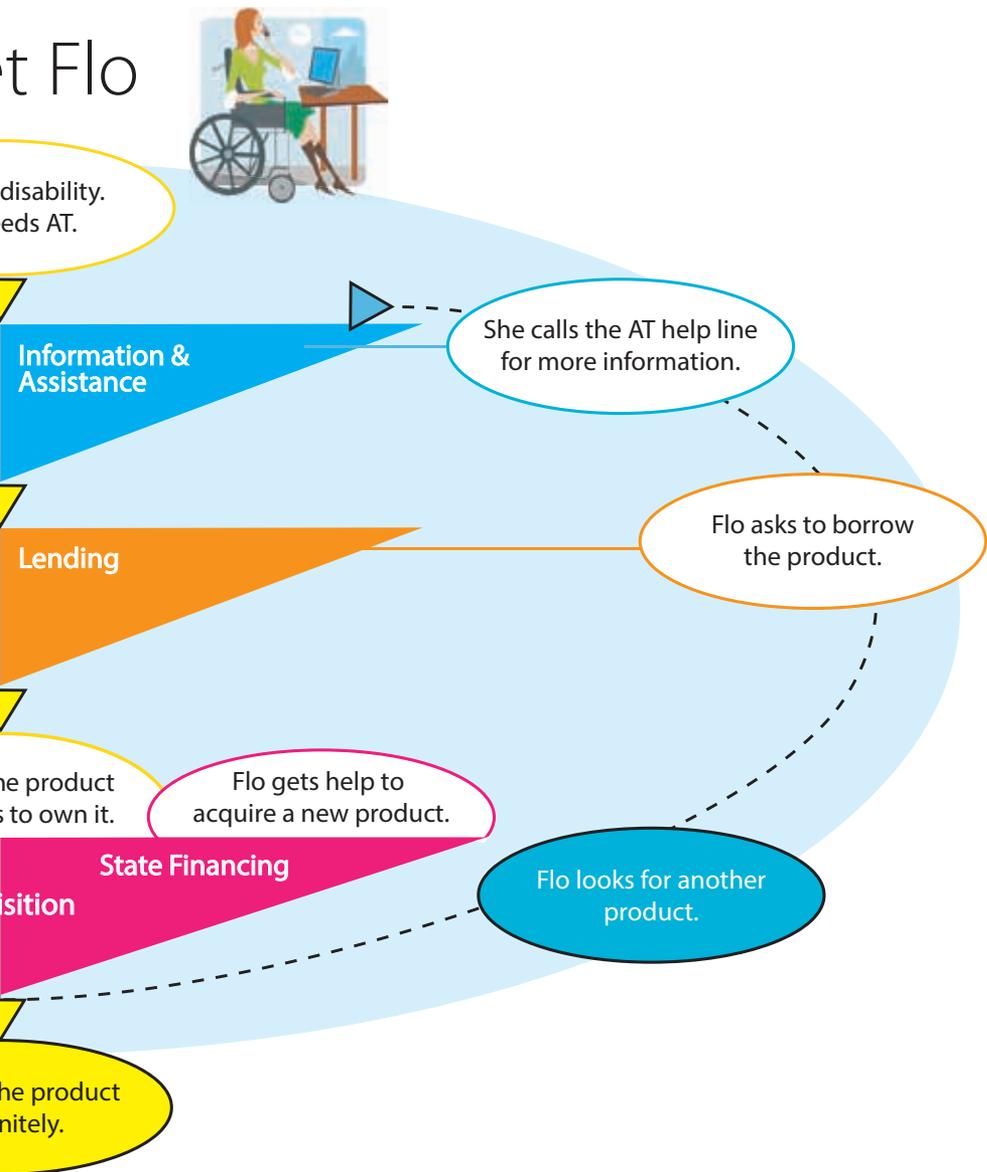
Flo is happy  
with her AT!



Flo keeps th  
indefi

Adapted from original AT Services "Flo" Chart created by PA's Initiative on

# Assistive Technology Services “Flo” Chart



## ● DEVICE REUTILIZATION

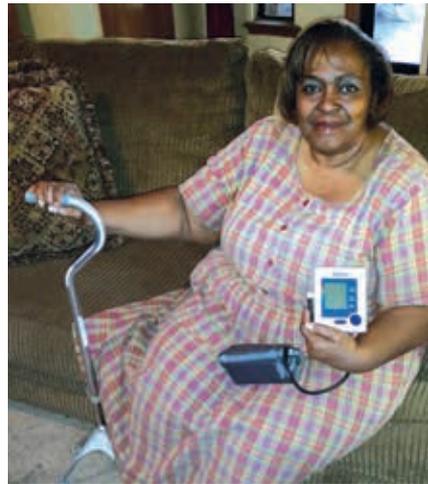
ABLE Tech and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority have partnered to provide the **Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program**. The program is designed to reuse valuable durable medical equipment (DME) that is no longer needed, and reassign it to Oklahoma residents in need.

### Program highlights:

- Retrieve donated equipment
- Sanitize and refurbish devices returning DME to peak performance
- DME vendors repair equipment if needed to ensure quality
- Reassign DME to the best matched eligible client at no cost

### What type of DME is available?

- Bath benches
- Blood pressure monitors
- Commodes
- CPAPs
- Gait trainers
- Hospital beds
- Knee walkers
- Nebulizers
- Patient lifts
- Quad canes
- Scooters
- Shower chairs
- Standers
- Walkers
- Wheelchairs



*Through the reuse program, this Oklahoma County resident was able to receive a quad cane and a blood pressure monitor. These devices have allowed her to have more independence.*

## Do you have assistive technology you don't use? Do you need an AT device you cannot afford?

The **Oklahoma Equipment Exchange** can help you donate, sell, or locate equipment for a reasonable price. The program is a person-to-person exchange, which functions like the newspaper classifieds and provides listings of pre-owned equipment.

To access this free service, visit the Equipment Exchange online (<http://oec.okstate.edu>). Don't have computer access? Call us - we would be happy to post a listing or search a product for you!



*This Payne County resident received an iPad from the ABLE Tech equipment exchange program. The iPad has greatly improved his speech therapy sessions.*



<http://oec.okstate.edu>

## ● FINANCIAL LOANS FOR AT & EMPLOYMENT

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, in partnership with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT), can provide financing options for Oklahomans with disabilities to purchase assistive technology to help them live, work, and learn independently.

We have two options for financing: **1** for AT less than \$1,500 and, **2** for more expensive AT over \$1,500.

### **1** ABLE Tech's Direct Financial Loan (up to \$1,500)

**Quick & Easy Application | 5% Fixed Rate | Low Closing Cost | 12-month repayment**

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, along with its partner OkAT, is introducing a new low interest Direct Loan option.

The Direct Loan allows individuals with disabilities to borrow money to purchase assistive technology and specialized devices that are \$1,500 or less, at a 5% fixed interest rate with a \$15 closing fee. The low monthly payment (usually for one year) allows a qualified borrower to pay off the loan, build their credit and own the assistive technology.

Loans can help individuals purchase:

- iPad for AT use
- Listening devices
- Vision equipment (including glasses)
- Vehicle modifications –  
i.e., hand controls
- Portable ramps for vehicle or home
- Software for computer modifications
- Durable medical equipment and accessories not covered by insurance
- Daily living aids



## ● FINANCIAL LOANS FOR AT & EMPLOYMENT

### 2 ABLÉ Tech's Financial Loan (over \$1,500)

Quick & Easy Application | Low-interest Fixed Rate | Special Guaranty Consideration

Oklahoma ABLÉ Tech, along with OkAT and BancFirst offer financial loans over \$1,500 to help individuals with disabilities obtain needed assistive technology devices and services. These loans have a 36-month repayment term if unsecured\* or, have a 60-month term if secured.

Loans can help individuals purchase items like:

- Communication devices
- Hearing aids and listening devices
- Home modifications
- Medical devices
- Vision devices
- Modified vehicles
- Computers or software
- Office equipment

#### Unsecured Loan:

- 6% interest rate
- Repayment term of 3 years
- Borrowed funds paid directly to the vendor
- Documentation fees apply

#### Secured Loan:

(with Collateral or Guaranty\*):

- 5% interest rate
- Repayment term of 5 years
- Vendor payment and documentation fees apply

*\*Guaranty loan with flexible underwriting guidelines is available for applicants who don't meet unsecured loan criteria due to credit/income issues from disability-related expenses.*

*Through the low-interest financial loan program, this Oklahoman was able to finance the purchase of an accessible van.*



## FUNDING PARTNERS

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.

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