

*Oklahoma's
Assistive Technology Act
Program
800-257-1705*

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Oklahoma ABLE Tech is a federal grant program located at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech serves all ages, all disabilities, in all of Oklahoma.

ABLE Tech Begins a New Year: Improving AT Access to Oklahomans with Disabilities

by Linda Jaco

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 began on October 1, 2006. Amazingly, two years have passed since Congress passed the Assistive Technology Act (ATA) of 1998 as amended. Oklahoma ABLE Tech continues to focus its work on the successful implementation of the new law which requires:

- Device demonstration programs
- Device short-term loan programs
- Device re-utilization programs, and
- State financing activities.

The purpose of ABLE Tech is to get assistive technology "AT" into the hands of Oklahomans with disabilities through the above activities that provide increased access and acquisition.

ABLE Tech was notified on October 1, 2006 that the amended State Plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration was approved. The amended State Plan is posted on ABLE Tech's website at <http://okabletech.okstate.edu>. ABLE Tech's partners for FFY 2007 include:

- Visual Services Division of the Department of Rehabilitation Services
- University of Tulsa, Mary K. Chapman Center for Communicative Disorders
- Hearing Loss Association of Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center
- Oklahoma League for the Blind
- Total Source for Hearing-loss and Access
- SoonerStart

The data collection instrument for all ATA programs is in its final stages of revision. Upon completion, it will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review. All ATA programs are encouraged to use the Association for Assistive Technology Act Program (ATAP) sponsored data collection instrument for all data collected in FY 2006. A data collection training meeting will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in mid-November for all ATA programs.

Congress has not passed an appropriations bill to fund programs for the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, ABLE Tech and all programs funded under the Department of Education are under a continuing resolution through mid-November. It is unlikely that ABLE Tech will receive its FY 2007 grant award until after Congress passes its appropriations bill, which often happens in January or February.

Linda Jaco is the Oklahoma ABLE Tech Director and the Interim Associate Director of Sponsored Programs, OSU Seretean Wellness Center, Stillwater, OK

EXTRA! EXTRA! "Try Before You Buy"

Borrow assistive technology equipment through our Short Term Loan Program.

Limited Time Offer
Rental and shipping fees waived!

ABLE Tech has over 400 devices available for loan through our FREE program. Visit our website for a list of all loan programs and devices!

<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>
or call 1-888-885-5588

ABLE Tech Receives Recognition

ABLE Tech would like to thank the Hearing Loss Association of Oklahoma City for recognition and a Certificate of Appreciation for "outstanding service and lasting contribution" to the Hearing Loss Association program.



ABLE Tech partners with the Hearing Loss Association and Hearing Helpers Room at Integris Third Age Life Center in Oklahoma City to provide a large variety of assistive technology items available for loan and demonstration for Oklahomans with disabilities.



The Alertmaster AM 6000 is a popular device checked out from the HLA program in OKC. This device provides alerts, such as doorbell or alarm clock, for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

ABLE Tech Hosts Open House to Demonstrate Assistive Technology

The next open house will be on November 16 and will feature aids for daily living to assist individuals of all ages and disabilities. For more information, please visit our website at <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> or call toll free at 1-888-885-5588 to be placed on our "open house" mailing list.

ABLE Tech's demonstration center includes over 400 items in various categories of assistive technology such as aids for daily living, items to assist individuals with visual or hearing impairments, alternate communication devices, computer access solutions, and recreational devices.

On September 21, Oklahoma ABLE Tech hosted its fourth open house. The open house featured computer access products for a variety of ages and needs in the community and workplace accommodations. The various computer access solutions available in the ABLE Tech demonstration center include hardware such as laptops, alternate keyboards, mouse options, specialized software that provide alternatives for accessing the computer, and accessibility solutions already available on today's computers. Whether you have reduced eyesight, wrist/arm discomfort, hearing loss, mobility limitations, or just work in a noisy or poorly lighted environment, the ABLE Tech computer access equipment can demonstrate assistive technology products that can add to your computer skill and proficiency. In addition, ABLE Tech is a Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center (MARC) and features resources available through this program. Microsoft Accessibility Resource CD Sets are available at our center, so you can take information with you to use after your visit to the center. Most working-age computer users and individuals with disabilities could benefit from using options built in to their computers or add-on hardware/software that make it easier to see, hear, and use. All of these products are available for demonstration, hands-on exploration, and short-term loan through the ABLE Tech Equipment Loan program.



ABLE Tech partners with the following businesses to provide consumers, providers, and family members access to statewide assistive technology (AT) demonstration and short-term loan programs. Below are descriptions about our partner's featured products. To see a list of all devices, visit the ABLE Tech website and click on "Device Demonstration" and "Device Loan" <http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

ABLE Tech Demo & Loan Program in Stillwater – ABLE Tech has over 450 items available for loan. ABLE Tech will focus on aids for daily living at the November 16 open house. The Pillbox Timer is a handy everyday piece of assistive technology to remind individuals when to take medication. It is divided into two large compartments that easily hold a couple of days' pills. Sliding open the cover panel is easy. The timer is simple to set and will repeat the alarm at the time interval you set it for, if you take pills on a regular schedule. You can also use the timer as an alarm clock when traveling by setting it on the number of hours you want to sleep. LSS Group \$10.95



Visual Services, Department of Rehabilitation Services located at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in OKC – This year, Visual Services has helped over 250 individuals find useful assistive technology through demonstrations and loans. A popular request for loan is the PocketViewer. It is a portable magnifier (up to 7x) with full color allowing you to read maps, view photographs, illustrations and three-dimensional objects. Its built-in writing stand adds increased flexibility, making it possible for you to sign checks and write up brief meeting notes. Enhanced contrast modes (white/black or black/white) can be selected for clear and easy reading. VS has many other devices to assist individuals with workplace, education, and community accommodations. Humanware \$745



Mary K. Chapman Center for Communicative Disorders, University of Tulsa
The Mary K. Chapman Center has been busy providing evaluations, assistive technology demonstrations and loans to individuals needing to assess the usefulness of a device. The center serves all ages. The SuperTalker Progressive Communicator is a commonly checked out device. It is a voice output device designed to grow with the user. It can be configured in one, two, four, and eight grid formats. You can record messages to match the user's daily activities. It can also activate toys and appliances. AbleNet \$376.20



Hearing Helpers at Integris Third Age Life Center OKC – The PocketTalker Pro is a frequently loaned device in the Hearing Helpers program. When hearing situations prove most challenging, the Pockettalker delivers. The portable Pockettalker is ideal for 1-on-1 conversations, TV listening, small groups and more. It amplifies sound clearly and easily for better understanding. Williams Sound \$180.00



Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center OKC and Tulsa
OATC locations provide short-term loans from an inventory of eight AmTrykes either in OKC or Tulsa. An AmTryke is a therapeutic tricycle suitable for children approximately 2-8 years old. The unique tricycle is hand and/or foot powered. It improves motor coordination, increases self-esteem, and is fun to ride.



SoonerStart Statewide – The SoonerStart Early Intervention regional programs provide assistive technology (AT) assessment kits for use by SoonerStart service providers. Boardmaker is a software program that allows you to create symbol-based communication pictures to assist an individual with communication (42 languages available). Mayer-Johnson \$299



ABLE Tech Adds Two New Partners to Offer AT Demonstration and Loan Programs!
Total Source for Hearing Loss and Access in Tulsa – TSHA has many items to offer related to hearing loss. Featured product: Reizen Portable Telephone Amplifier is great for those who need amplification on the go. Equipped with a durable, flexible rubber strap, the amplifier easily slips over most telephone handsets including public payphones. It provides amazing sound quality and clarity up to 30dB. HearMore \$19.95



Oklahoma League for the Blind in Oklahoma City – Featured product: The talking wrist blood pressure monitor is easy to measure your blood pressure. Place the unit on your wrist and press the start button. Blood pressure is read back in a female voice, along with pulse rate. Unit stores 99 most recent measurements, along with their date and time. Unit is small and lightweight, making it easy to travel with. Uses 2 "AAA" batteries. LSS Group \$49.95



Crossing 400: Fire Safety Solutions Is Going Strong

During the last few months, the "Fire Safety Solutions for People with Disabilities" program has been active. Over 400 people have applied to receive free smoke alarms. Over 30 families applied for the free smoke alarms when ABLE Tech attended enrollment days at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf and the Oklahoma School for the Blind. Fire Protection has hired six new fire professionals to ensure we can install the alarms quickly.

Visit <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> (Select "Fire Safety") to complete an online application.

We have been meeting with educators to learn how to modify a new fire safety curriculum (written by Fire Protection Publications and OSU Center for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning) for students with disabilities. Along with the free curriculum, teachers receive a kit with books, puppets, a fire station, child firefighter gear, a floor puzzle, and a CD of related sounds. We are considering which items we will create to add to the teacher's kit, such as twin-vision books for elementary grades, a DVD in ASL of a fire station tour, a website for teenagers with disabilities, and other manipulatives for teaching fire prevention strategies and for creating escape plans.

If you have suggestions or want more information, call Oklahoma ABLE Tech toll-free at 800-257-1705 Voice/TTY.



The Special Education Resolution Center has been busy attending and arranging training. Six hearing and appeal officers recently attended a four day conference in Bismarck, North Dakota on conducting administrative hearings. The conference, sponsored by the National Association of Hearing Officials, provided quality training on a variety of topics such as: Decision Writing, Use of interpreters in Hearings, Identifying Bias, Judicial Ethics, Diversity, Controlling Disruptions in Hearings, Demeanor Evidence and Credibility Determinations, Evidence Basics, Nuts and Bolts Look at Due Process, and Enhancing Decision Making.

Additional substantive training for hearing officers will be open to the public. Out of state national experts in IDEA, Part C (Early Intervention – birth to 3) and IDEA, Part B (ages 3-21) will be giving day long presentations covering the federal requirements of both areas. Training is open to the public for the registration cost of \$100.00. Scholarships are available to parents who demonstrate financial need.

October 30, 2006 IDEA, Part C – Sooner Start Early Intervention for Birth to 3, Speaker: Maureen Greer
OSU Wellness Center, Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK
For anyone desiring to understand federal obligations to children with disabilities (birth to 3)

November 15, 2006 IDEA, Part B – New Regulations! Speaker: Art Cernosia
OSU Student Center, Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City, OK
For anyone desiring to understand federal obligations of public school districts to children with disabilities (ages 3-21)

Registration is limited. If you are interested, contact Shannon at 918-712-9058 or obtain a registration form at <http://serc.okstate.edu>

NAME CHANGE FOR OKLAHOMA EQUIPMENT CONNECTION COMING SOON!

ABLE Tech's assistive technology re-sale program, formerly the Oklahoma Equipment Connection or OEC, will undergo a makeover—complete with a new name and an interactive website! This fall, the OEC will become the **ABLE Tech AT Exchange**. The AT Exchange is a free service advertising pre-owned assistive technology to offer Oklahomans an affordable alternative to purchasing AT. The improved, interactive features will allow sellers to post equipment for re-sale and shoppers to browse and be connected directly to the seller. The OEC website contains a list of devices available for resale.

Visit <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> and click "Oklahoma Equipment Connection" or contact us toll free at 1-888-885-5588 V/TTY or 405-744-9748 V/TTY. Please reference the device ID number.

ASK Project Receives Department of Education Grant to Expand Services

The Sooner chapter of AMBUCS in Norman has operated the ASK Project since 1998, refurbishing donated computers for adults and children with disabilities throughout the State of Oklahoma. Operating on a shoestring, they've managed to provide over 4,000 computers thanks in large part to their member, Linda Durbin, who is the founder of the project, their inspiration, and who has provided most of their technical support.

The \$195,650 grant is a three-year demonstration project from the Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration for the purpose of reutilizing assistive technology for people with disabilities. It will allow the organization to make a number of improvements to their program.

Sooner AMBUCS have been working out of an 800 square foot storage space located in an alley for the last three years. Recipients of computers have arranged to pick them up in Norman on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings of the month. In November, the ASK Project will move to a 5000 square foot space at 2012 Research Park Blvd. in Norman—complete with climate control, warehouse space, an office, and even a bathroom! They'll be open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons to allow easier access for donations and recipient services.

Part-time employment will be provided for several people with disabilities working in the warehouse, repairing computers, and providing administrative support. Upgraded software (Windows 2000) will be obtained through the Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR) program. One of the early expenditures will be for a cargo van or truck to help in picking up and transporting computers. Most computers will be provided with modems to access the Internet for the first time and additional assistive technology will be available. Translated materials will be provided to reach out to the Hispanic community. And the best part is the plan to double the number of computers provided to 1000 each year.

At the end of three years, AMBUCS will provide a report and guidelines for the project, which can be used by other organizations to provide similar services. For more information write Sooner AMBUCS, PO Box 118, Norman, OK 73070, check out their website www.soonerambucs.org, or call the project manager, Adri-Anne Trammell at 405-360-1521. Instructions for donations and computer applications are on the website.

ABLE Tech partners with the AMBUCS ASK project to provide a device reutilization service to the state. Device reutilization involves the recycle and repair of equipment to provide more cost savings to Oklahomans.

Oklahoma Agriculture Mediation Program

What is OAMP? OAMP is the USDA certified state mediation provider for the State of Oklahoma and is housed at the Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Oklahoma State University Seretean Wellness Center in Stillwater. OAMP assists agricultural producers, their lenders, and other people directly affected by the actions of USDA resolve disputes. Authorized by the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 and Oklahoma statutes, mediation is an effective way to settle disputes in many different USDA program areas, including farm loans and farm programs, and agricultural credit issues. OAMP can also assist rural Oklahomans with resolving a wide variety of issues that affect their daily lives.

What is Mediation? Mediation is a voluntary, confidential meeting in which a neutral mediator helps participants who are involved in a dispute discuss their disagreements, identify options that might resolve the problem, and agree on solutions. Mediators do not give legal advice and do not determine who is right or wrong. A mediator is not a judge, and has no authority to decide the outcome. Agreements are reached based on what the participants themselves can mutually agree to do. USDA agencies offer mediation to anyone who has received an adverse decision as part of the informal appeals process, in an attempt to resolve the problem early and in the most effective way.

What are the Benefits of Mediation? Mediation may settle disputes within a participant's financial means, providing a low-cost alternative to appeals or to often expensive litigation and bankruptcy. Mediation helps reduce the stress caused by lengthy litigation and unresolved conflict. Even where mediation does not result in an agreement, it often results in a better understanding of how the agency decision was reached and preserves good working relationships between the participants.

OAMP is managed by Andrea Braeutigam, J.D., LL.M., an attorney-mediator with specialized training and practice experience in mediation. OAMP staff will guide you through the mediation process and answer any questions you have about whether mediation is a good option for resolving your dispute. OAMP has access to other free services for Oklahomans: Oklahoma ABLE Tech, AgrAbility, and Intensive Financial Management and Planning Support (IFMAPS). If you or someone you know would benefit from mediation or a referral to any of these resources for Oklahoma farm and ranch families, call OAMP at 1-800-248-5465 or visit <http://www.oamp.net/>

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

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Seretean Wellness Center
REAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE



Resources and ABLE Tech Training Calendar

ABLE Tech Online Resources

- Oklahoma ABLE Tech
<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>
- Oklahoma Equipment Connection
<http://oec.okstate.edu>
- ABLE Tech Alternative Financing Program
and Access to Telework Fund Program
<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>
Click "Financing Activities"
- Electronic and Information Technology
Accessibility News: www.accessibility.ok.gov
- AgrAbility: <http://agrability.okstate.edu/>
- Fire Safety
<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>
Click "Fire Safety"

Events and Websites

October 10 – Training on IDEA that governs
the delivery of special education services in
the United States. Contact Pat Diaz at
405-271-1836 for more information.

The Special Education Resolution Center
has scheduled the following training
sessions For more information visit
serc.okstate.edu or call 918-712-9632 or
888-267-0028.

**October 30 – Stillwater, OK – 8:30 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.** Maureen Greer, Special
Consultant will discuss Part C – Individuals
with Disabilities Education Act/Sooner Start
101.

**November 15 – Oklahoma City, OK – 8:30
a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Art Cernosia, Esquire will
discuss the Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (IDEA) and the New
Regulations.

October is National Disability Employment
Awareness Month and **November** is American
Diabetes Month.

November 6 On the Road Family Perspective
Conference at the High Plains Technology
Center, 3921 34th St., Woodward, OK

November 16 ABLE Tech will host an Open
House at the OSU Seretean Wellness Center
in Stillwater. For more information call
1-800-257-1705 or 405-744-9748.

November 8-11 *Living the Vision Together:
Today, Tomorrow and Beyond*, 2006 Annual
TASH Conference, Baltimore Convention
Center, Baltimore, Maryland. For more
information call 1-800-482-TASH (8274) or visit
www.tash.org.

November 11-12 Oklahoma People First
annual state conference. Doubletree Warren
Place, 6110 South Yale Avenue, Tulsa, OK.
Session topics include Eating to Stay Healthy,
Guardianship, Thriving Self-Directed Services,
Working with the Media, and more. Contact
Elma Rodd at 405-275-3624.

ABILITY Magazine www.abilitymagazine.com
JobAccess www.jobaccess.org
Job Accommodation Network
www.jan.wvu.edu

Supported Employment Education Designs
www.staffdevelopment.net
JVS, an employment and career development
organization www.jvsmn.org

January 18, 2007 Electronic and Information
Technology Advisory Council Meeting, State
Capitol