

Funding Resources for Assistive Technology Self-Employment

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) expands opportunities for employment, independent life and economic self-sufficiency by helping Oklahomans with disabilities bridge barriers to success in the workplace, school and at home. Self-employment programs help individuals who want to work for themselves, telecommute using computers or operate their own businesses.

How is self-employment defined?

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services identifies self-employment as owning, managing and operating your business and making a profit. Self-employment ranges from sole proprietorships and independent contractors to multi-employee companies and independent franchise operations.

Who can help me?

Career Planning Centers provide vocational evaluations to assist you and the counselor to develop an employment goal that is best for you. The evaluations are strongly based on your occupational interests. Professional evaluators will assess your skills, knowledge, abilities and interest.

What is the role of DRS?

Your counselor will work with you to develop your Individual Plan for Employment and will be available for

technical assistance once purchases for assistive technology has been approved. Your counselor will specify on the Career Center referral form that a self-employment evaluation is needed. A review of progress on your case will occur with you every three months.

When should I consider myself for self-employment?

- The income derived from a self-employment plan is to be the primary source of support.
- You display informed choice consistent with your unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities and interests.
- You express an interest in self employment and are willing to participate in a vocational assessment with a focus on self-employment potential.
- You have the academic, communication and managerial skills to manage your own business and the resources to demonstrate a likelihood of success.

Because of the evaluations, you will receive:

1. solutions to potential barriers,
2. increased likelihood of consumer success,
3. real-time labor market information and
4. valuable information for reaching your career goals.



Bob and Dorothy own and operate Route 66 Produce in Yukon, Oklahoma, where they invite the public to select and pick their own produce. Being self-employed in the agriculture arena has provided them with the flexibility they need to ensure their business is a success.

Self-Employment

What is required of me?

You will need to complete and submit a business plan that details at a minimum the following:

- complete description of the proposed business
- business objectives
- ownership
- market analysis
- marketing plan
- financial Management Plan including personal finance sheets, projected expenses and income for the last two years
- specific listing of needed start-up costs and equipment, not including assistive technology devices
- specific listing of the type and amount of assistance you are requesting
- information regarding cost and coverage of insurance policies to cover liability, inventory and equipment

In Self-Employment Plans, the department will NOT be able to provide funding for:

- construction or purchase of real estate
- a business that is speculative in nature
- refinancing existing debt
- purchase of a vehicle
- a business organized as a hobby

How do I apply for services?

Call the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services at 800-845-8476 toll free v/tty
405-951-3400 voice/tty.

Oklahoma Funding for Assistive Technology

A Guide to Solving the Funding Puzzle and Receiving Assistive Technology in Oklahoma
Contact Oklahoma AgrAbility at 888-885-5588 for additional information.



About Oklahoma AgrAbility

Oklahoma AgrAbility connects farmers and ranchers with disabilities to resources that may help provide continued success in their enterprise, operation and daily life activities. AgrAbility strives to provide education, assistance and support to those in need.

Contact Oklahoma AgrAbility

888-885-5588 (voice/tty) • agrability.okstate.edu • ability@okstate.edu

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project is a joint effort of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation and the Langston University School of Physical Therapy. Mention or display of a trademark, proprietary product or firm does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Oklahoma State University, Langston University or the National AgrAbility Project, and does not imply approval to the exclusion of other suitable products or firms.

Oklahoma State University and Langston University, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of their policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.