



# Oklahoma Pledge Quarterly Newsletter

## Your Paycheck and You. Why Work Pays\$

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the theme is “We are EQUAL to the task!”

**“Why Work Pays”** event raises awareness about the critical needs to provide employment opportunities, resources, and wealth building skills for people with disabilities. This event will showcase the concerns and development of people with disabilities.

Recipients with disabilities are a valuable resource of trained, motivated and available workers to help Oklahoma businesses meet their business objectives. This training will help further individuals with a disability to enter employment through the understanding of the value of work and your paycheck.

The event will be held at the Oklahoma History Center on October 25, 2013 from 9 am to 4 pm. We will have four important lessons, Why Work Matters! What your Pay Check Means, Impacts of the new Health-care Laws, and Why Work Pays!

For information go to [www.ok.gov/orc/2013\\_Asset\\_Building\\_Conference.html](http://www.ok.gov/orc/2013_Asset_Building_Conference.html).

### “Future Shock” Career Day

The Oklahoma School for the Blind Parent Teacher Organization will be hosting their 11th Annual “Future Shock” Career Day on Thursday, November 7, 2013, from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. on the (OSB) campus, located at 3300 Gibson Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74403.

This is an unique educational experience designed for the blind/visually impaired Oklahoma students, their families, teachers, and other interested individuals. The majority of the speakers have achieved success and independence. Colleges, universities, trade schools, career technology, and national companies will be there to discuss opportunities. RSVP to Linda Graber (helpful, but not required) to [lgrab@osb.k12.ok.us](mailto:lgrab@osb.k12.ok.us), or call 877-229-7196 (Toll Free in Oklahoma).

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The Office of Disability Concerns in collaboration with partners will be hosting a FREE conference. “A PAYCHECK AND YOU—WHY WORK PAYS,” Friday, October 25, 2013, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. located at The Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Okla. City, OK 73105

Anyone interested in learning how to successfully maximize their resources.

# Veterans Find a Second Family with the Medical Foster Home Program

The U.S. Office of Veterans Affairs is working to encourage eligible veterans with family options when they can no longer stay in their own home. Here's how the program works, the placement is voluntary, and the program will match eligible veterans, approved home owners, and experienced caregivers.

The Medical Foster Home (MFH) Program offers medication management, meals and menus catered to veteran's health needs, and a permanent home that foster independence.

Some of the caregiver requirements are:

- must be 21 years or older,
- financially stable,
- must pass an annual inspection by the VA Inspection Team,
- must have experience with taking care of others.

To find out if you qualify, please contact Susie Kent, (MFH) Coordinator, at (918) 628-2723.



## Help Improve the Accessibility of Oklahoma's Voting Machines

The Oklahoma ABLE Tech at Oklahoma State University has teamed with the Research Alliance for Accessible Voting to assess the effectiveness of Oklahoma's accessible voting machines.

The goal is to help acquire better access to allow individuals with disabilities to vote independently and, privately in all polling locations. This event is funded through the Election Assistance Commission, which trains individuals with disabilities on accessible voting machines that are available at all polling places. If you are having trouble using standard voting machines, utilize switches or sip and puff devices, or have visual impairment. Please call ABLE Tech to schedule an appointment for the upcoming training, Friday, October 11, 2013, 9 am to 1:00 pm, located at the Stillwater Public Library, 1107 S. Duck Street at (405) 744-9748

*"The goal is to help improve access to and allow individuals with disabilities to vote privately in all polling locations"*

Review Oklahoma State Election information for people with disabilities, please visit [http://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter\\_Registration/Voter\\_Assistance/index.html](http://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Registration/Voter_Assistance/index.html)

## The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

(OMDHSA) has relocated the Oklahoma County Crisis Intervention Center previously located at 1200 N.E. 13th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73105. As of Wednesday, September 18, 2013 the Crisis Center will continue services at it's new location, 2625 General Pershing Blvd, offering a wide range of mental health concerns.

The (OMDHSA) agency as of today has served 60,000 individuals receive services from the department each year. Of those, only about 5 percent require hospital care. The vast majority take part in mental health and substance abuse outpatient programs, targeted community based services, prevention efforts and educational initiatives.

For more information and services available, please visit <http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/>



*Only five percent require hospital care.*

## Client Assistance Program (CAP)

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The purpose of this program is to advise and inform clients, client applicants, and other individuals with disabilities of all the available services and benefits under the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, and of the services and benefits available to them under Title I of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, authorizes the Vocational Rehabilitation, Supported Employment, Independent Living, and Client Assistance Programs. For information go to: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/reg/narrative.html>

The Office of Disability Concerns is the Oklahoma state designated agency to operate (CAP). Mr. William Ginn, is the (CAP) Director, located at 2401 N.W. 23rd St., Suite 90, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. (CAP) works closely with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, and other entities to ensure each client receives quality services they need. (CAP) is an active member on several boards, committees, and attends national conferences to promote client advocacy.

There is no charge for (CAP) services and all information is confidential. For more information, please visit <http://www.ok.gov/odc/>

## U. S. Department of Education

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The Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Programs offers individuals financial assistance when purchasing assistive technology based on their disability needs. Recently the U.S. Department of Education presented California, Missouri, and Washington financial grants totaling \$1.9 million to assist individuals buy assistive technology.

The U.S. Department of Education 's Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Programs is gateway to eliminating financial barriers for the disability community. Such assistive technology may include hearing aids, computers, vehicle modifications, and other equipment.

The Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program is administered by the Education Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration. For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/19-million-grants-awarded-help-individuals-disabilities-purchase-assistive-techn>

## Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

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The (ADA) is a federal civil rights law signed in 1990 prohibiting discrimination of individuals with disabilities. The (ADA) covers five categories Title I- Employment, Title II-State and Local Government, Title -III Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities, Title IV-Telecommunications, and Title V- Miscellaneous Provisions. Only three entities are exempt from the (ADA regulations ); which are Tribal Governments, Church, and Private Clubs. For more (ADA) information, or services, please visit <http://www.ada.gov/>



(ADA)

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) enforces the federal statues prohibiting on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status, and national origin. For more information, please visit <http://www.justice.gov/crt/>



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***"Keeping You Informed Is Our Pledge"***

Like us on face book [https://  
www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-  
Office-of-Disability-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Office-of-Disability-)

*The Senior Community Service Program*

Enjoying retirement for some seniors are great, but for those who wishing to continue working. The Senior Community Service Program is the largest federally-funded program specifically targeting older adults seeking employment and training assistance.

The (SCSP) is operated by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA). Special consideration is given to people with the following: 65 and older, Have a disability, Have limited English proficiency or low literacy skills, Live in a rural area, Are a Veteran, Low employment prospects, and are homeless or at risk homeless.

For more information, and how (SCSP) can help you, please visit: [http://  
www.seniorserviceamerica.org/site/our-programs/scsep/](http://www.seniorserviceamerica.org/site/our-programs/scsep/)

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month—October 2013**

The U.S. Department of Labor is celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year’s theme “Because We Are EQUAL to the Task” . This yearly event recognizes the outstanding achievements, education, training, and experience in the workforce. For more information, please visit: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20131020.htm>

The Office of Disability Concerns in collaboration with partners are hosting a FREE conference. “A Pay Check And You—Why Work Pay\$, Friday, October 25, 2013, 9 a.m. to 4: 15 p.m., located at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zudi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

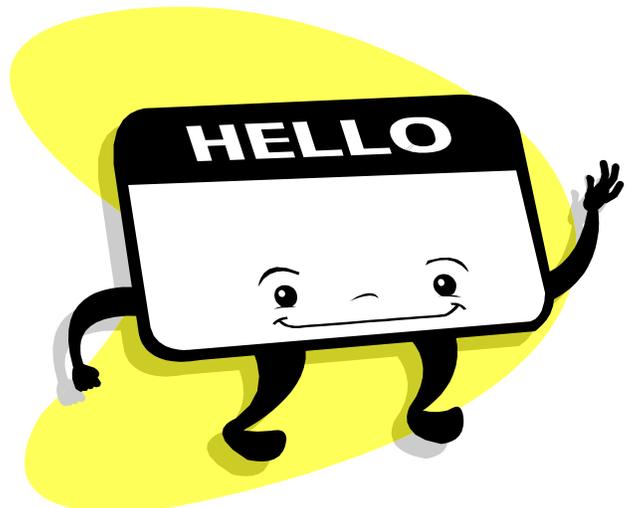
Who should attend? Anyone interested in learning how to maximize their resources and why having a job or career can work for them. Why Attend? The conference will be a combination of presenters', and small group exercises. This event will focus on what individuals need to know on financial issues and actions they can take. Special Accommodations assistance will be available, please identify accommodation (s) request on registration form. To ensure accommodation (s) information MUST be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, October 14, 2013. Limited seating capacity available for professionals.

To register online please visit: [www.okrehabcouncil.org](http://www.okrehabcouncil.org)

Fax: (405) 951-3532

Mail: 3535 N.W. 58th St., Suite 500, Okla. City, OK 73112-4824

Cancellation Policy: A fee of \$25 charged to individuals who do not cancel 48 hours in advance.



“A PAYCHECK AND YOU—WHY WORK PAYS” Conference