

OK STABLE Now Tax Deductible

The Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services released [a new video explaining the benefits of an OK STABLE Account](#). OK STABLE Accounts allow Oklahomans with disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for benefits programs. Earnings are not taxable and also can be used as a state tax deduction, effective May 2021. For more information about the OK STABLE tax deduction, [visit the Oklahoma State Treasurer's webpage](#). Oklahomans and their family members interested in [opening an account can go to the OK STABLE website](#).

Out with the Old (Language)

(From left) Nancy Ward, Jeryldine Schutte-Pogue, and RoseAnn Duplan, and Steve Watson joined Sen. Carri Hicks (right), author of SB93, as Gov. Kevin Stitt signed the bill into law. The bill changed outdated terms in Oklahoma law to reflect people first language usage for Oklahomans with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



Autism Foundation Offers Employer Training

The Autism Foundation of Oklahoma invites employers to learn about the benefits of hiring workers on the autism spectrum, as well as how an equitable workplace includes people of all abilities. The organization can provide on-site or virtual training and consultation that includes recruitment strategies, improving job and workplace accommodations, and communication strategies for supervisors. Contact Emily Scott at escott@autismfoundationok.org, call 405-237-8390, or [visit the workforce development page of the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma](#).

Take Care of You, Too

As the 2021-2022 school ramps up, whether at-home, in-school, or a hybrid mixture, families continue to juggle work, homework, chores, appointments, and the continuing anxiety of the pandemic. The Child Mind Institute offers suggestions, recommendations, and encouragement to help parents stay healthy, mind and body. [Check out *Why Self-Care is Essential to Parenting* on the Child Mind Institute website](#).

The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the Health Sciences Center recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of the historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty, and staff.

focus facts is published for the University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network members. Its purpose is to highlight specific information and data items relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments. Individual information items are provided for use in this form, or for further circulation. When re-printing information please reference *focus facts* and the month of issue noted below the banner at the top of this page. The name of a contact person for additional information on items referenced in the newsletter is provided for your convenience. If you have data, information or a story to report relevant to community living, please send it to *focus facts* Editor at the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD OU Health Sciences Center, PO Box 2690, Oklahoma City, OK 73126.

Please include the information source, by title, a one paragraph (or less) description or story, a contact name who can provide additional information on the subject, and a daytime or evening telephone number for the contact. If you have other questions regarding the format for submissions, please call the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Headquarters Office at (405) 271-4500.

The University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network is open to membership by any organization or individual who shares the interests of Network members. The Network is dedicated to identifying opportunities for collaboration and information exchange among its participating members, which leads to improving our statewide, regional or local capacity to provide a better living environment in Oklahoma for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families. The Network is partially supported through a grant from the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, and by the Offices of the Designated Representatives of the Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD Collaborating Partners.

If you have a disability (Deaf/hard-of-hearing, Blind/low-vision, mobility, cognitive, etc.), and require accommodations, please reach out to Learn2Lead@ouhsc.edu. It is helpful if you share what type of accommodations will be needed to ensure that you are able to use the resource materials.