

Business Enterprise Program

Assisting legally blind entrepreneurs to establish businesses in the food service industry



For more information,
contact BEP at (405)523-4800

<http://www.okdrs.gov/drupal/job-seekers/bep>

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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

David Altstatt, independent vendor

David Altstatt Sr. graduated from the Oklahoma School for the Blind in 1974, and after a year of college, he was ready to get to work.

A past BEP vendor gave him that opportunity by opening the door to both a job and the BEP program. He said he used the opportunity as a foundation for his life.

Altstatt has worked with the BEP program for 40 years, and through those four decades has managed 24

different locations. He now manages vending services at Oklahoma City's Children's Hospital.

For a new OSB graduate, Altstatt said the help of BEP can be instrumental in securing their future.

"It was important for me," he said. "I believe it was helpful because it helped me learn a

trade and helped me financially. It helped me mature and has helped me through life."

Altstatt said to be successful though, a potential BEP vendor must have drive.

"BEP provides a good opportunity for somebody to be self-motivated and who is concerned about self-preservation and does not want to be dependent on the state," he said. "I have enough time in that I could retire but I don't want to. You are restricted with some things in life (because of the disability) but this allows you to be a productive citizen in your community."

