2018 ANNUAL REPORT: TEXT VERSION

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

The past year has been a time of expansion for Northwest Access Fund: we’ve

disbursed more loans, we’ve provided more individuals with financial coaching, and

we’ve reached more counties across Washington and Oregon than ever before. It’s an

exciting time, and I’m so thankful for all your support in getting us here.

We’ve also expanded our loan products this year: we received a federal grant from

the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the amount and the term

of our home-modification loan. We can now lend up to $35,000 for up to 10 years

to Washingtonians and Oregonians to adapt their homes to better suit their needs.

Whether it’s installing grab bars or a roll-in shower in the bathroom, adjusting the

countertop heights in the kitchen, or adding a stair lift, home modifications can make

all the difference in ensuring that someone is safe and comfortable in their own home.

We know that people want to stay in their homes and their communities—and home

modifications allow this to happen—but the burden to pay for necessary modifications

frequently falls upon individuals and families. With the help of supporters like you,

home modifications are now more affordable and accessible to many in our community.

As a nonprofit, we’re able to give loans to people who do not qualify for traditional

financing, promoting access to technology that makes an immeasurable difference

in their day-to-day lives. 50% of our loans over the past year went to people with low,

poor, or no credit, and 81% of respondents in our Annual Survey said that without

our financing, they would not have been able to access this life-changing technology.

Others indicated they would have had to dissipate savings or turn to high-interest

financing to afford their technology. Yet technology is only one of the additional

expenses that people with disabilities face: prescription medication, medical debt,

medical supplies, and care-giving copay services must all fit within an individual’s

budget. Our loans allow people to access the technology they need while also meeting

other expenses and planning for the future.

I hope you enjoy learning more about our activities and impact over the past year in this

report. I am so grateful to everyone who made this happen: our dedicated Board and

Committee members, our passionate staff, and our generous supporters. Thank you all.

Warmly,

Emerson Sekins, Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Northwest Access Fund provides funding to people with disabilities in Washington & Oregon to purchase assistive technology and achieve greater independence.

BOARD

Susan McNaught, President | Noah Stockton, Vice President | Alan Knue, Past President | Molly Sullivan, Secretary | Warren Weissman, Treasurer | Isabelle Banville | Alice Coday | Eduardo Corona | Whitney Keyes | Chris Millette | Michael Richardson | Daman Wandke | Joe Wykowski

A Word From our Clients

We surveyed 110 loan clients. Their responses show why your gift matters.

* 100% would recommend a Northwest Access Fund loan to others who need help paying for AT
* 88% say their (AT) improved their independence
* 94% use their AT daily (81%) or weekly (13%)
* 97% say the AT they purchased improved their quality of life

In 2018 we were pleased to honor the following award winners:

Best Practices Awards: Northwest Multiple Listing Service  
Innovation Award: Bryce Johnson  
Harborstone Recreational Engagement Award: The 5th Avenue Theatre

Frances Pennell Economic Opportunity Award: Hearing Loss Association of America - Washington

It makes my life what it is

Barry Dotson relies on two things to get around: Portland’s MAX line and a scooter. So when his

scooter became unreliable, he knew he needed to replace it. Having previously received a loan from Northwest Access Fund, he applied and was approved for a second loan.

Barry’s new scooter is much more dependable, making it easier for him to leave the house, complete errands, and socialize. It is also much admired: “I sit in the back of the church and there are a lot

of little kids that think the scooter is really cool… Without help from Northwest Access Fund, I couldn’t do what I’m doing now. I couldn’t leave my house, get to the store, get to the doctor. It makes my life

what it is.”

IN FY 2018 WE Provided:

243 Financial Coaching Sessions

Given to 144 people with disabilities

371 Loans

Active loans to purchase assistive technology and/or run small businesses.

431 Devices Funded

Assistive Technology devices purchased through loans or with matched-savings grant funding.

OUR Program Activities

Our Focus

79% of households served are considered low income (earn less than 80% of the area median income).

50% of FY2017 microloans were to borrowers with subprime credit, poor credit, or unscored credit.

Loan Program

129 loans disbursed in 2018:

34% increase in loans disbursed in 2018

$602,776 disbursed in 2018

Financial Capability Program

232 Professionals trained on the financial barriers accompanying disabilibty

163 People with disabilities provided with group financial education

Our Reach

Your contributions helped serve **502 households** with disabilities in **28 Washington counties and 11 Oregon counties this year\***

*\*28 Washington counties: Benton, Clallum, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, Yakima.  
11 Oregon counties: Clackamas, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Washington.*

TYPES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUNDED

* 30% Hearing Aids
* 22% Vehicle Modification
* 22% Mobility
* 5% Computers
* 15% Daily Living
* 2% Vision
* 2% Home Modifications
* 1% Other
* 1% Sports & Recreation

Race/Ethnicity

73% of clients identified as White  
12% of clients identified as Black or African American  
5% of clients identified as Asian or Pacific Islander  
4% of clients identified as Latino or Hispanic  
3% of clients identified as Native American or Native Alaskan  
2% of clients identified as 2 or more races

1% of clients identified as other

Age

34% of clients are 65+ years old  
36% of clients are 50–64 years old  
19% of clients are 35–49 years old  
9% of clients are 18–34 years old  
2% of clients are under 18 years old

Loans that work … again and again

When Artonyon Ingram came to Washington State nearly three decades ago after leaving the Air Force, he knew he wanted to help people. He first became a case manager, working with young people and encouraging them to pursue education, and went on to get a Masters degree in guidance counseling from City University.

Artonyon heard about Northwest Access Fund in 2010, when he came to set up his own practice as a licensed counselor. Our funding provided Artonyon the means to purchase the equipment he needed to set up his home office and consulting room. He has now received five loans from Northwest Access Fund, allowing him to run his small business that subsidizes his Social Security Disability Insurance income.

“I get loans from Northwest Access Fund that I couldn’t get anywhere else. I applied for multiple business loans but they would only give ma a Visa credit card. The smallest loan they would consider was for $30,000, and I couldn’t do that.” Artonyon credits Northwest Access Fund with providing the small-dollar loan he needed: “You can start with the small picture and build from there. Just use it wisely.”

THE NUMBERS

Total Dollars Loaned Since Founding:

$4,140,126

Default Rate:

2%

IDA Matching Dollars Granted:

$231,477

Without the loan, I don’t know what I would have done. I need the vehicle to drive to dialysis three times a week, plus other activities. -loan client

LOAN AMOUNTS

Smallest Loan: $115  
Largest Loan: $25,000  
Median Loan: $2,623