

# Northwest Access Fund



Independence  
is priceless.

*We make it  
affordable.*



## MISSION

**NORTHWEST ACCESS FUND PROVIDES FUNDING TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN WASHINGTON & OREGON TO PURCHASE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND ACHIEVE GREATER INDEPENDENCE.**

## BOARD

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## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Northwest Access Fund,

It has been a busy and successful year for us helping individuals with disabilities become more active, independent, and engaged in their communities. We started serving people in Oregon in 2016 and changed our name to reflect our statewide efforts in both Oregon and Washington. We believe everyone should have access to affordable assistive technology and economic opportunity and are glad to be able to do our part in the great Northwest. Through our low-interest loans, IDA matched savings accounts, and financial capability services, we are helping our clients build assets, improve their credit, and navigate our complex financial landscape.

We continue to hear from our clients—and their comments remind us why we do the work we do. One client, happy to have a new iPhone said, “I can call the bus company to check on the schedule...and the phone can remind me if I am going to be late or behind in a project.” Another client, with a new vision device, explained, “Large print is not readily available in public places. This is a big help for me to have compact magnifiers. Keep up the great work.”

Almost 80% of our clients are low to moderate income, and most of our loan clients tell us that they couldn’t get financing for their assistive technologies if not for our program. We work closely with our clients to ensure they are getting a loan that fits their budget. Our borrowers have shown a strong commitment to repaying their loans; the overall default rate on our loans is less than 2%, better than the average consumer loan default rate for commercial banks.

We know the financial circumstances arising from disability can lead to high debt-to-income ratios, low credit scores, and lack of collateral; many people with disabilities appear a poor credit risk for traditional lenders and are targets for predatory lenders. While we offer financial capability services to our clients, we also trained over 180 professionals in 2016 on the financial barriers people with disabilities experience and the need for financial products and services that fully include people with disabilities.

Northwest Access Fund’s success would not be possible without the commitment of our Board of Directors, donors, volunteers, and staff who have a deep understanding of the challenges faced by, and the opportunities available to, people with disabilities.

Together we make a difference.

Sincerely Yours,

Jack Brummel, Executive Director

# NEWS

## Here's what's new:

### Expansion

We started making assistive technology loans in Oregon in 2016 and we've added five Oregonians to our Board of Directors. In September we received a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services to support our lending and development services in Oregon.

We've hired a Financial Capability Program Manager who provides financial coaching and education in

both Washington and Oregon. We're also offering assistance to other organizations to expand their services to people with disabilities.

### Small Nonprofit Employer of the Year

We were honored by the Washington Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment as the 2016 Small Nonprofit Employer of the Year.

### Save the Date!

Join us in celebrating the individuals, businesses, and organizations making a significant impact on the lives of people with disabilities in our community.

WASHINGTON

ACCESS FUND

AWARDS NOVEMBER 2

2017

DINNER THURSDAY

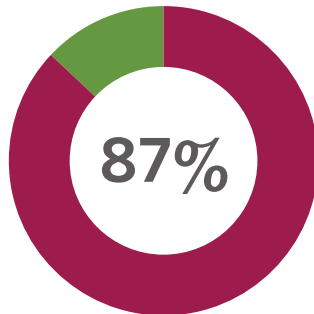
## YOUR GIFT MATTERS

Why should you support Northwest Access Fund?

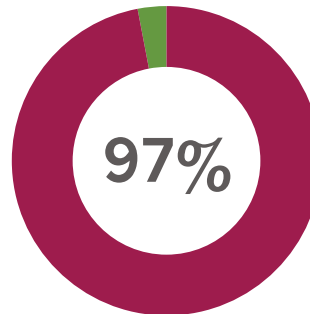
We surveyed our clients, and here's what they said

100%

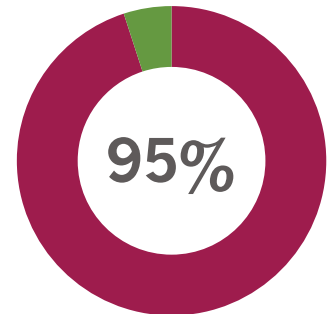
of borrowers completing our Annual Borrower Survey **would recommend a Northwest Access Fund loan** to others who need help paying for AT



REPORT USING THEIR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) ON A DAILY BASIS



REPORT THAT THE AT THEY PURCHASED IMPROVED THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE



REPORT THAT THEIR AT HAS HELPED THEIR ABILITY TO INTERACT WITH FRIENDS & LOVED ONES

LEARN MORE

Apply for a loan or subscribe to our newsletter

email: [info@nwaccessfund.org](mailto:info@nwaccessfund.org) | website: [nwaccessfund.org](http://nwaccessfund.org) | phone: (206) 328-5116



# NORTHWEST ACCESS FUND

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

# 57

 Financial Capability Clients

Active Matched Savings Accounts & Financial Well-being Assessments for WA residents with disabilities.

# 331

 Loans

Active Microloans to purchase assistive technology and start small businesses.

# 188

 Professionals Trained

Professionals receiving disability and financial inclusion training.

### OUR GEOGRAPHIC REACH

### TYPES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUNDED



2%

VISION



9%

MOBILITY



50%

HEARING AIDS



6%

DAILY LIVING



12%

COMPUTERS



5%

OTHER



13%

VEHICLE MODIFICATION



1%

SPORTS & RECREATION



2%

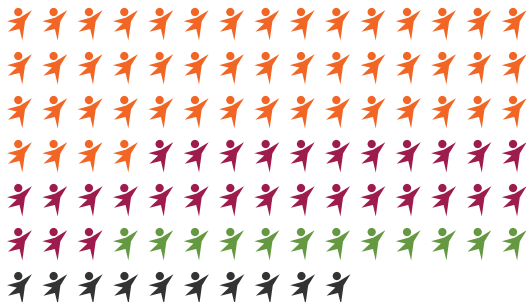
HOME MODIFICATIONS

### OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

## 78%

 OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED ARE CONSIDERED LOW INCOME\*

<50% median income	50%-80% median income	80%-100% median income	>100% median income
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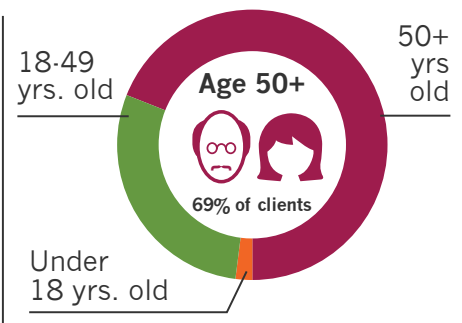


\* Earn less than 80% of the median income.

# 47%



Percent of FY 2016 microloans to borrowers with subprime credit, poor credit or unscored credit.



# Independence is priceless. We make it affordable.

# MORE ADVENTURES AHEAD!



“Not having the use of my legs and only my arms to get around with – it was very challenging for me to go out into the community” says Linda, “having to use my shoulders with every step I

have to take. Having the new electric wheelchair, it’s not that challenging anymore - and in fourth gear I can go up to six miles an hour!”

Linda Spencer started using crutches to get around after she lost the use of her legs at 14. Damage to her shoulder muscles and joints led first to a manual

wheelchair when she was 46 and then in 2016 her doctor said she needed an electric wheelchair. When she learned that the Northwest Access Fund could help her finance a new wheelchair in a way that was affordable to her, she was excited about the prospect.

“They really do care about helping people a lot. They processed paperwork really fast ...and I got my wheelchair approval from them in like a couple weeks” Linda recalls.

“It’s so important to me to get this electric wheelchair so I can not be homebound anymore,” Linda says. “I need to get out. I’m not finished living life yet at 53. I’ve got a whole lot ahead of me!”

## THE NUMBERS

TOTAL MICROLOAN DOLLARS LOANED

**\$3,068,758**

DEFAULT RATE | **2%**

TOTAL IDA MATCHING DOLLARS GRANTED

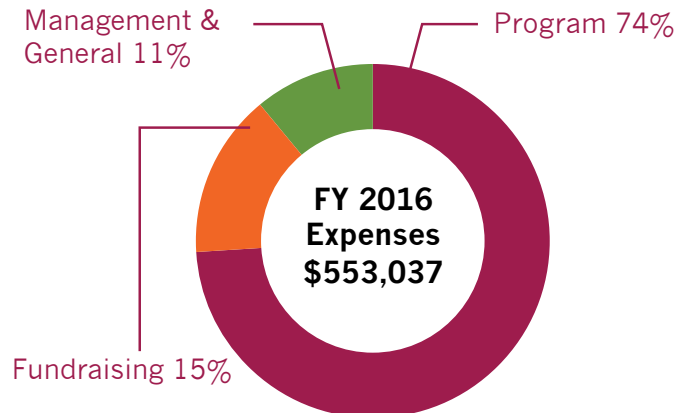
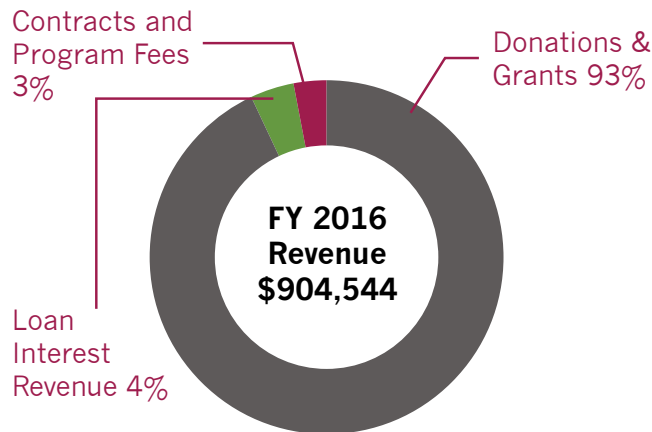
**\$194,304**

Meeting with the counselor was very helpful. I have met with them three or more times and I just celebrated breaking 700 on my credit score. -MICKEY, IDA SAVER

LOAN AMOUNTS



## OUR REVENUE & EXPENSES



Net assets as of 9/30/16 totaled \$2,052,285 with \$742,227 in Net Loans Receivable.