Northwest Access Fund Timeline: Text Version

Celebrating 15 Years of Lending

Between our founding and 2019, we provided 1,208 loans to individuals with disabilities, for a total of $4,875,848 – and counting! 1,078 of our loans have been used to purchase assistive technology, 123 have been used to support microenterprises, and 7 have been used to increase the financial stability of individuals in our financial capability program. We’ve served people with disabilities in 35 Washington counties and 17 Oregon counties.

**Below is our timeline from 1999 to 2019.**

**1999:** We incorporated as the Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF), spinning off from the Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP).

**2001:** We received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and received our first grant.

**2002:** We were certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), the first in the country to be run by and for people with disabilities. We also disbursed our first loan, for a CCTV.

* We disbursed one loan for $2,246.

**2003:** We disbursed one loan for $1,431.

**2004:** We received our first major funding and hired our first full-time staff member, Andrea Dimond.

* We disbursed 14 loans for a total of $62,187.

**2005:** We disbursed 29 loans for a total of $87,741.

**2006:** We lent over $100,000 in a year for the first time.

* We disbursed 31 loans for a total of $117,900.

**2007:** We disbursed 44 loans for a total of $171,596.

**2008:** We launched a grant pilot program that offered matched savings accounts (IDAs) to low-income participants.

* We disbursed 69 loans for a total of $258,070.

**2009:** We disbursed 55 loans for a total of $174,569.

**2010:** We changed our name to the Washington Access Fund and expanded our matched savings pilot program into a formal IDA grant program.

* We disbursed 48 loans for a total of $142,305.
* From our founding to 2010, we lent out over $1 million in total.

**2011:** We disbursed 63 loans for a total of $190,620.

**2012:** We were awarded our first Disability Employment Initiative subgrant to provide matched savings accounts to people with disabilities seeking employment.

* We disbursed 93 loans for a total of $341,711.

**2013:** Our Founding Director Frances Pennell retired, and Jack Brummel became our Executive Director.

* We disbursed 82 loans for a total of $212,159.

**2014:** We increased our maximum loan amount to $25,000 and held our first Annual Awards Dinner in order to launch our individual donor program.

* We disbursed 112 loans for a total of $490,556.
* We lent out over $2 million in total from our founding to 2014.

**2015:** We were awarded a second Disability Employment Initiative subgrant to provide financial coaching to jobseekers.

* We disbursed 102 loans for a total of $434,234.

**2016:** We changed our name to Northwest Access Fund to better reflect our expanding service area, as we started lending in Oregon. We also launched our Financial Capability Services, providing one-on-one financial coaching to people with disabilities.

* We disbursed 102 loans for a total of $441,300.
* From our founding to 2016, we lent out over $3 million in total.

**2017:** Our Executive Director Jack Brummel retired. His role was filled by Emerson Sekins.

* We disbursed 96 loans for a total of $468,606.

**2018:** Kathy Gilman and Pam MacRae celebrated 10 years with Northwest Access Fund.

* We disbursed 129 loans for a total of $602,776.
* By 2018, we had lent out over $4 million in total.

**2019:** We increased our maximum loan amount to $40,000.

* We disbursed 137 loans for a total of $750,000 and counting!

**Our assistive technology loans have been used to purchase a wide variety of products:**

* 495 hearing aids
* 141 computers and software
* 46 daily living aids, including beds, dentures and special shoes
* 34 home and environmental modifications, including flooring, stair lifts, ramps, and walk-in bathtubs
* 139 mobility devices including wheelchairs, scooters, and batteries
* 17 adaptive sports and recreation devices
* 9 speech communication devices
* 172 modified vehicles
* 81 vision aids, including braille displays and CCTVs

**Through our Financial Capability Program:**

* 199 people with disabilities opened a matched-savings IDA account.
* 308 people with disabilities had 646 one-on-one financial coaching sessions, during which
  + 195 people developed workable budgets
  + 82 people developed credit-building plans, and
  + 27 people opened a safe and affordable checking or savings account.