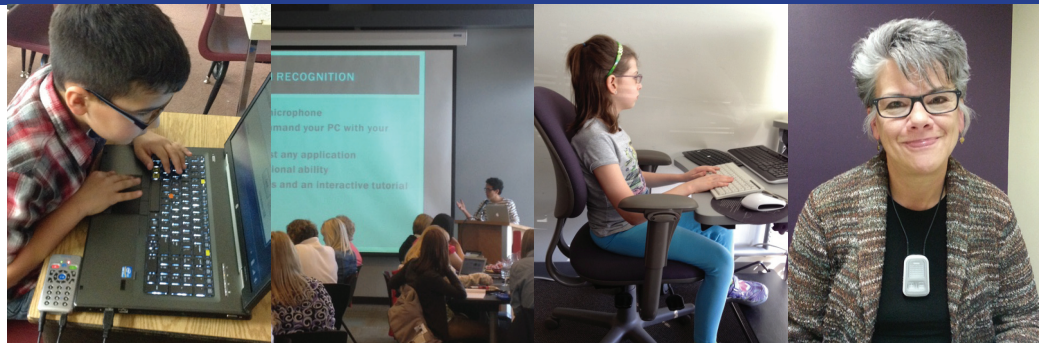


2013 Annual Report



Washington Assistive Technology Act Program



This report is available in alternative formats by request.

Thank You

Assistive technology empowers people to achieve their goals and overcome barriers to independently learn, work, live, and play. Both low and high tech solutions offer alternative ways to participate in the activities that matter most. We would like to thank our partners for their on-going work and dedication to the people of Washington State. Collaborative efforts with partners and Advisory Council Members have helped us reach individuals with all types of disabilities across the state.

Partners

- Washington Access Fund
- Easter Seals Washington
- Bridge Disability Ministries
- Hearing, Speech, and Deafness Center
- Timberland Regional Library System
- Special Education Technology Center
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Department of Services for the Blind
- UW Center for Technology and Disability Studies
- UW Center on Human Development and Disability, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability
- UW Rehabilitation Medicine
- State Independent Living Council
- Washington Education Association

Advisory Council

Consumer Members

- Sue Ammeter
- Julie Peddy
- Aditya Ganapathiraju
- Kathy Troyer
- Kathy Neeley
- Don Brandon

Agency Representatives

- John Bresko, *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction*
- Naomi Namekata, *Dept. Services for the Blind*
- Vicki Gilleg, *Div. of Voc. Rehabilitation*
- Lucille Walls, *Centers for Independent Living*



Program Activities

About WATAP

WATAP provides assistive technology (AT) resources and expertise to all Washingtonians with disabilities, their families, and their support network. WATAP is funded through Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, (grant #H224A130046) to assist in making decisions and obtaining the technology and related services needed for employment, education and independent living.

WATAP points the way to assistive technology solutions through comprehensive and statewide programs including:

- Device Demonstration
- Short Term Device Loans
- Device Reuse and Exchange
- Alternative Financing
- Training for Professionals
- Workshops
- Technical Assistance
- Information and Assistance

2013 Activities

Device Demonstrations: 477

By exploring a range of devices with experienced AT Specialists, 637 individuals were able to make informed decisions.

Device Loan: 304

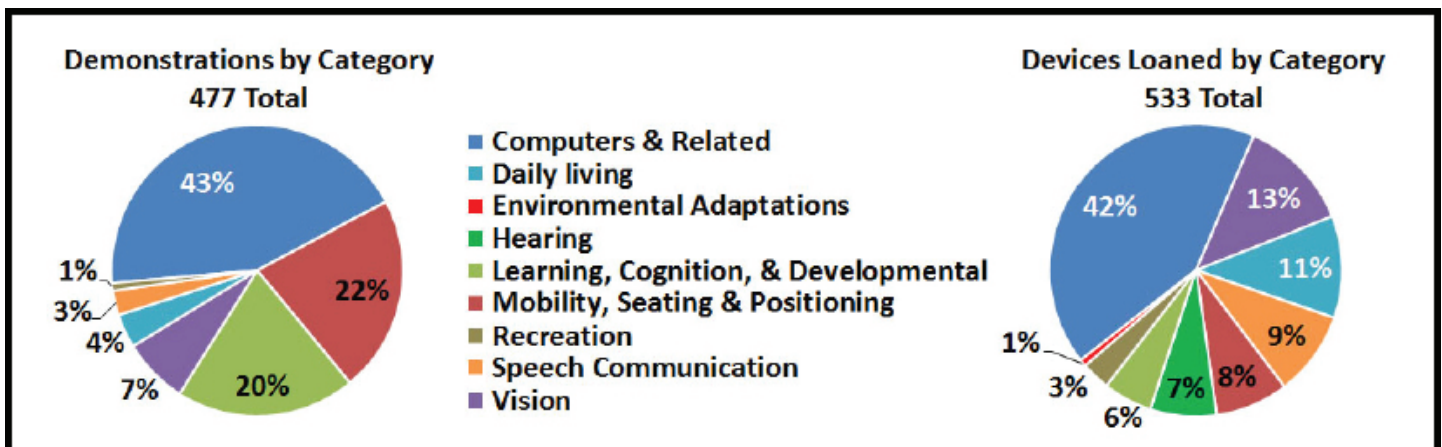
Through short term loans, individuals were able to try 533 devices in the environment where they will be used.

Device Reuse: 524 devices

Through partnerships with Evergreen Reuse Coalition members, 316 individuals got equipment at a \$194,934 cost savings.

Alternative Financing: 58 Loans

Individuals obtained the equipment they needed through low-interest loans totaling \$151,816.



Collaboration & Coordination

Activity Highlights

Individual Development Accounts

In addition to low interest loans, the Washington Access Fund provided matched savings accounts for purchasing assistive technology. Savings goals were reached by 27 individual, and \$9,607 was distributed.

Outreach on Aging

WATAP and the Idaho Assistive Technology Project collaborated with Washington State University on the creation of 8 videos to increase awareness of assistive technology for people who are aging with, or into, disabilities.

Evergreen Reuse Coalition

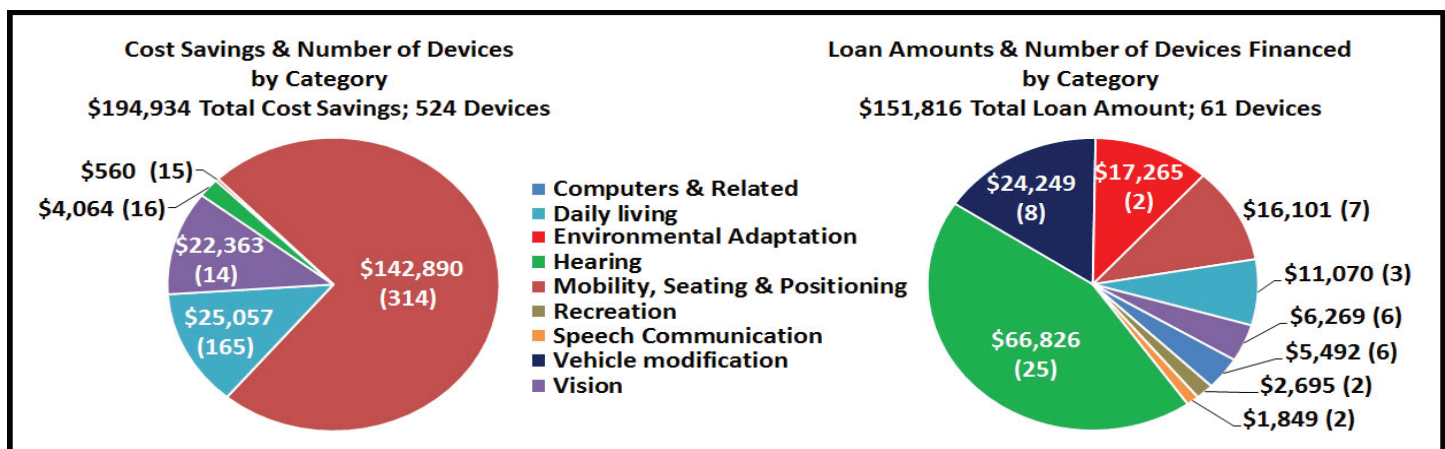
Through on-going collaboration, 3 shared drop-off sites were established for computers, hearing aids, and durable medical equipment.

Aids for Better Living

Patrons at the Timberland Regional Library system borrowed 129 low-tech devices through their local library branch.

Assistive Technology Training

WATAP provided tablet accessibility and comparison training to 63 educators. Training was provided to 75 vocational rehabilitation professionals in a series on selecting AT for the workplace.



Achieving Success

Demonstration



As Jeremiah* enters middle school, he increasingly uses a computer to complete assignments, type papers, as well as keep up to date with friends in his free time. He and his mother came to WATAP and tried several one-handed keyboards, as Jeremiah only has use of his right arm. Like many middle schoolers, he does not want to stand out from his classmates so he was also shown the Adesso Wireless Slim Touch Mini Keyboard. This more mainstream option made him feel less self-conscious. Within a month of obtaining the device, though open-ended loan, his proficiency has improved.

Financing



At the onset of Isaac's* autism, he lost his speech but not his ability to connect. To purchase the tools he needed to express himself, Isaac and his family turned to the Washington Access Fund and their Individual Development Accounts. The program gives people with limited income the opportunity to receive a dollar for dollar match on the amount they save towards the purchase of assistive technology. With his matched savings account, Isaac purchased an Attainment Talker 6 communication device, Boardmaker software, and an iPad to increase his ability to communicate his inner thoughts.

Empowering People

Short Term Loan



Alexandra*, a teacher for the visually impaired, contacted WATAP when she needed a way for her students to access their textbooks and other school materials. WATAP loaned her a Book Port to try with her students in their classroom. During the loan period, Alexandra and her students were able to explore the device's many features. Upon returning the device to WATAP, Alexandra reported the loan gave her and her students time to understand the full benefit of the device. After deciding the Book Port was a viable solution, both students were able to get the device for use with their schoolwork.

Reutilization



Robert* has been hard of hearing most of his life. Due to recent mobility impairments, he needs training for a new, more sedentary career. However, his struggle with communication is hard on his self-esteem which is holding him back from pursuing training. Through the hearing aid reuse program at the Hearing, Speech, and Deafness Center, he received two, donated, top-of-the-line hearing aids as well as assistive listening devices he would not have otherwise been able to afford. With his improved ability to hear people speak, he is gaining more confidence in his personal and professional life.

**Names have been changed*



Washington Assistive Technology Act Program

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