



NATIONAL DISABILITY —FINANCE COALITION—

Diversity Includes Disability

OFN Conference

New York

October 21, 2022

Agenda

- Introduce National Disability Finance Coalition
- Disability Finance Context
- Trailblazer Award
- Assistive Technology case study: Northwest Access Fund
- DEI+A case study: Chicago Community Loan Fund
- Policy update: Disability Awareness
- Take action and get involved
- Questions



**Tapping a market,
meeting a need.**

<https://disability-finance.org>



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Who We Are

Our Mission

Our mission is to bridge the CDFI industry and the disability community, to ensure that CDFIs can respond effectively to address the needs of individuals with disabilities, and to offer technical assistance and support to CDFIs developing financing products and services.

Defining Disability

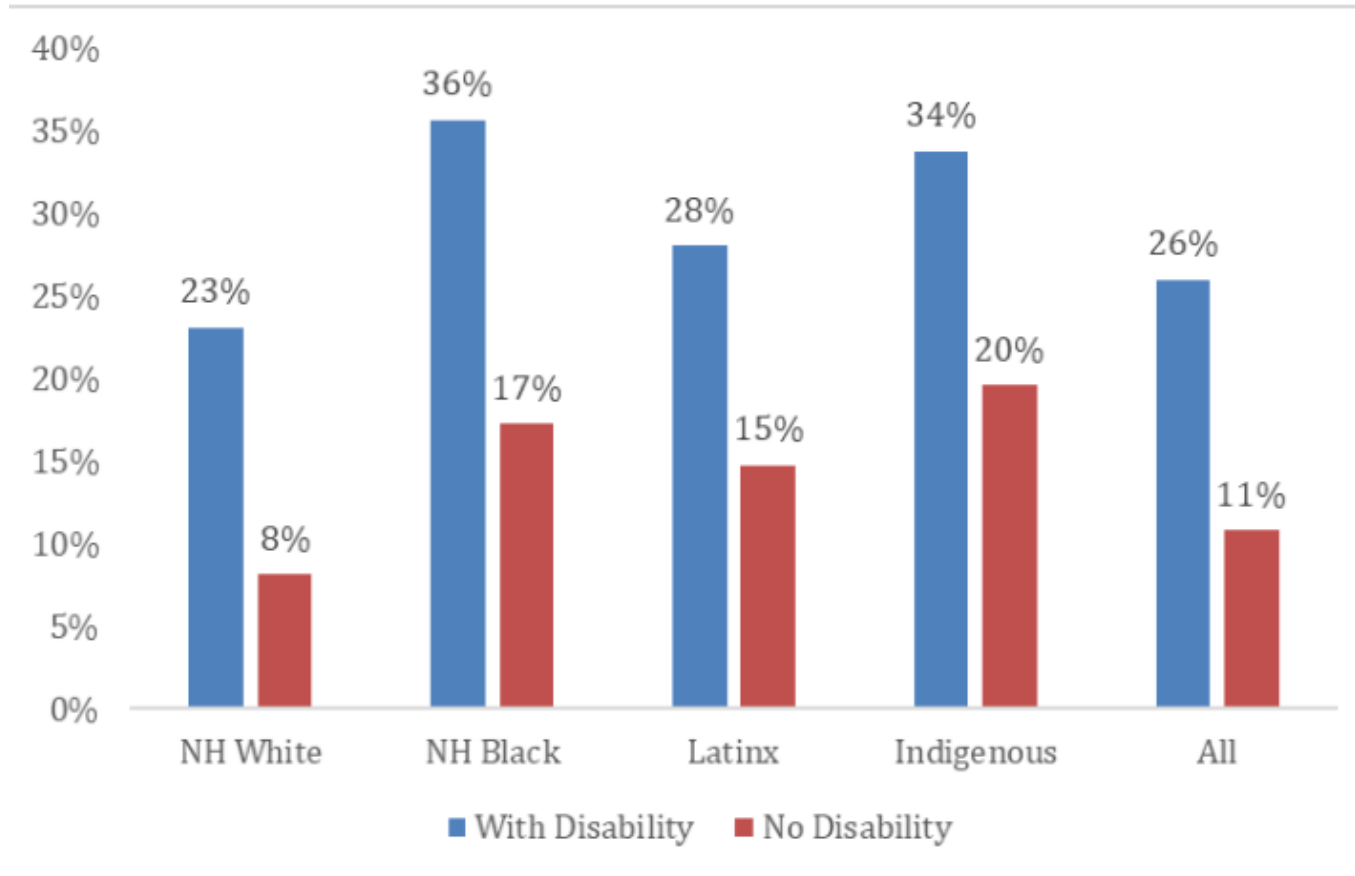
- The term “disability” describes a diverse group of individuals
- A person’s disability can be related to vision, hearing, movement, communication, cognition and/or psychosocial issues
- A disability can occur at birth, older age or anytime in between
- It can be congenital or arise because of chronic illness, injury, malnutrition or aging
- A disability can be visible or invisible; permanent or temporary
- Intersection with race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation may compound discriminatory treatment that limits access to credit and financial inclusion

PWD are a large and growing population



- 60+ million adults
- 25% of adults between 65-74 have at least one disability
 - 50% for those over 74
- Over half-million children with Autism will transition to adulthood over the next decade – one of the fastest growing segments of disability
- Exacerbated by long-term effects of Covid

Poverty rates by race and disability illustrate dual impact



Source: NDI Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). 2018 American Community Survey 1-year Public Use Microdata Sample.



Disability Philanthropy Network

From *Race and Disability: A New Reckoning*:

“Racial-equity efforts ... will fall short if they don’t address challenges facing the nation’s nearly 13 million people of color with disabilities.”

Race and disability lie at the crux of:

- Mass incarceration
- School-to-prison pipeline
- Police violence
- Arrest rates
- Health disparities



Disability Justice movement

Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to:

- Live independently
- Enjoy self-determination and make choices
- Benefit from education
- Pursue meaningful careers
- Enjoy full inclusion and integration in the ***economic***, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society

FDIC Household Survey - 2019



Households with a disability have *significant unmet financial needs*:

- **Three times as likely to be unbanked as households with no disability** (16.2% versus 4.5%)
- More likely to **rely on bank tellers** and less likely to use online or mobile options. (66% versus 47%)
- Less likely **to use/have bank credit cards**: (76% versus 49%)
- More frequently **denied credit**: (23% versus 40%)



NDFC Programs

- Peer learning
- Disability Finance training in 2023
- Advocacy
- Affinity Groups:
 - Community Development Professionals with Disabilities
- Showcasing innovation and best practices in Disability Finance

NDFC Trailblazer Award



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NDFC Trailblazer Award

For Expanding Accessibility in Community Development Finance

The National Disability Finance Coalition (“NDFC”) proudly announces the establishment of the **NDFC Trailblazer Award**. This award will recognize, reward, and celebrate an organization that has made a meaningful contribution to expanding accessibility within the community development finance field. The NDFC Board of Directors will select the 2022 awardee, who will receive a \$10,000 stipend and recognition at a ceremony in October 2022 in New York City.

 Follow 




Providing innovative financing and expert assistance to nonprofits since 1992.

Honorable mention nominees



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For Disability & Home Adaptation Improvements

6.0% Interest. No Credit Check. Limited Time Only.

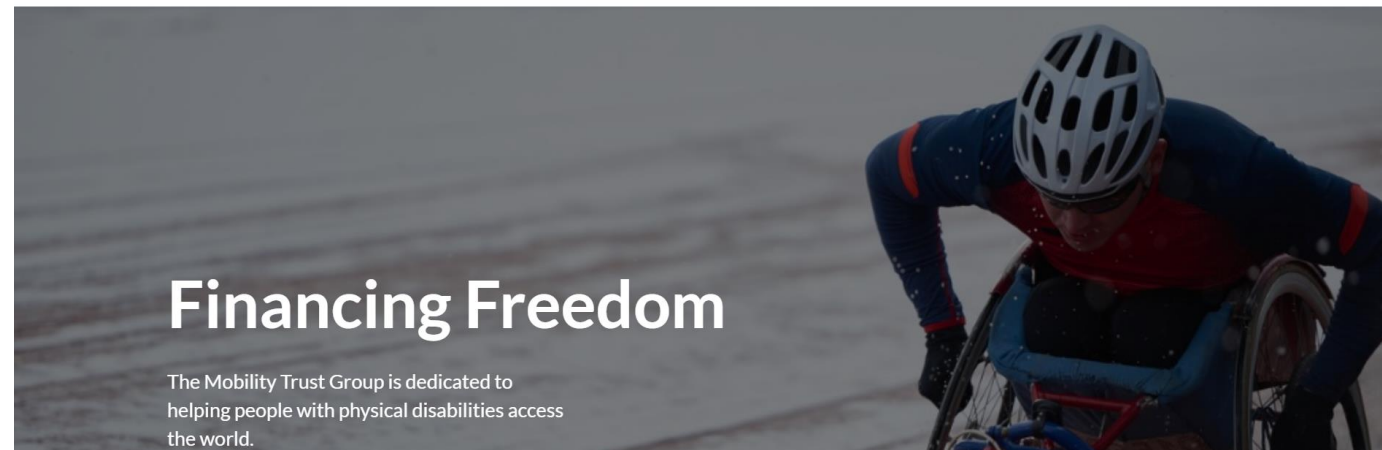
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Financing Freedom

The Mobility Trust Group is dedicated to helping people with physical disabilities access the world.



Northwest**Access**Fund

Independence is priceless. We make it affordable.

Emerson Sekins, MPA

Executive Director

About Northwest Access Fund

- **Mission:**

We offer people with disabilities customized loans, financial coaching, and other resources to promote access to assistive technology, independence, financial resilience, and life opportunities.

- Serve all of Washington and Oregon; expanding into Idaho
- All incomes, all ages, all disabilities
- 501(c)3 & Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).



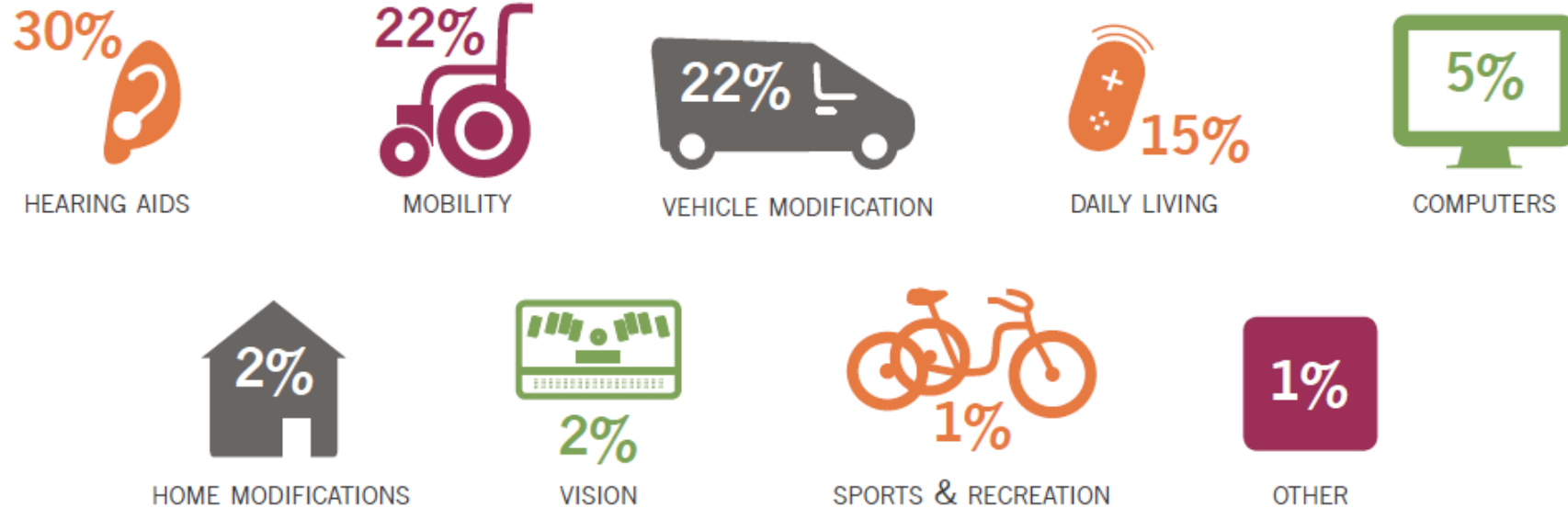
**ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY
LOANS**



**FINANCIAL
CAPABILITY
SERVICES**



What is Assistive Technology?



“Any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, off-the-shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”

Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended definition:

Impact of Assistive Technology

THE TECHNOLOGY HELPED ME...



85%

interact with friends
and loved ones



73%

perform activities
of daily living



64%

perform important
life roles



62%

communicate

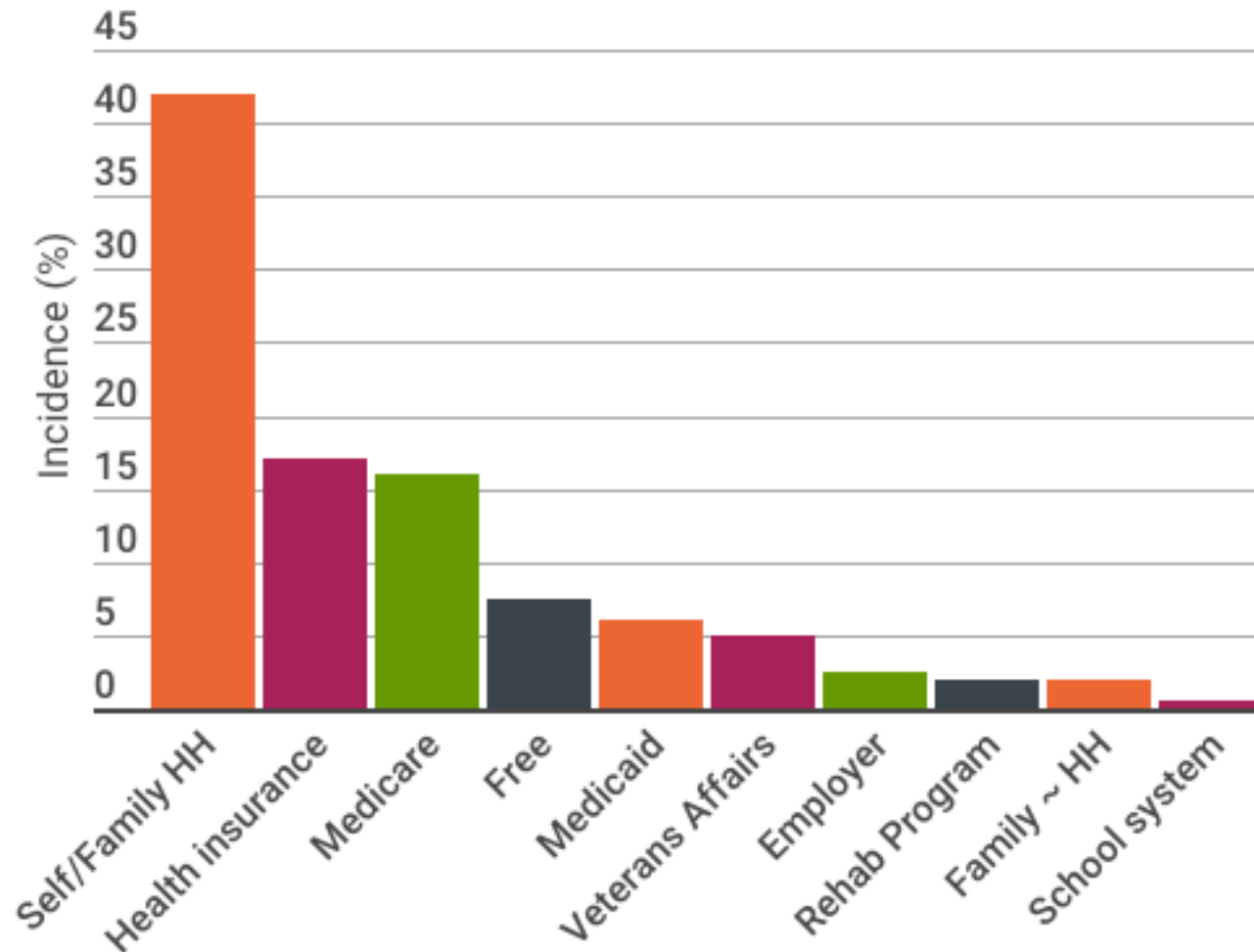


45%

stay in my
chosen home



Who Pays for Assistive Technology?



<http://www.resna.org> (Highlights from University of Michigan Survey of Assistive Technology Users)

Financing Barriers to Purchasing AT

People with disabilities are as
2x likely to live in poverty.



530,000

families turn to bankruptcy
each year because of
medical issues and bills.

67% percent of all
bankruptcies were tied
to medical issues –either
because of high costs for
care or time out of work.

*

A household with disability requires
28% MORE INCOME
to have the same standard of living.

- High costs of AT
- Public Benefit restrictions on savings/assets, and income
- Prime, subprime, or unscored credit
- High Debt-to-Income ratios, often associated with medical debt
- Interrupted employment histories
- Source of Income (Social Security)

NW Access Fund's Loan Program

We serve all ages, all disabilities, and all incomes

All loans 5% interest—no fees

- **Assistive Technology:** Up to \$25,000, 5-year term;
- **Modified Vehicles:** Up to \$40,000, 10-year term;
- **Home modifications:** Up to \$40,000, 10-year term;
- **Opportunity Loan:** Up to \$10,000, 5-year term
 - Can be used for purposes that promote independence, financial resilience, and pursuit of life opportunities. Examples include rental deposits, legal financial obligations, re-finance high interest debt, and business



Our Mission in Action



Loan amount/term: \$26,077 / 72 months

Monthly payment: \$420

Borrowers (credit scores):

Grandmother (793)

Parents (612 & 591)

AT needed for 17-year-old grandson/son



Combined HH income: \$68,219; 50-80%AMI

[In our new van] "Josh is so much more comfortable because he is facing the right way and has shoulder seat belt which helps him sit better. Sitting better makes his breath control easier so he isn't so exhausted after a conversation, and he is easier to understand. I have to stop I get tears.... THANK YOU!"

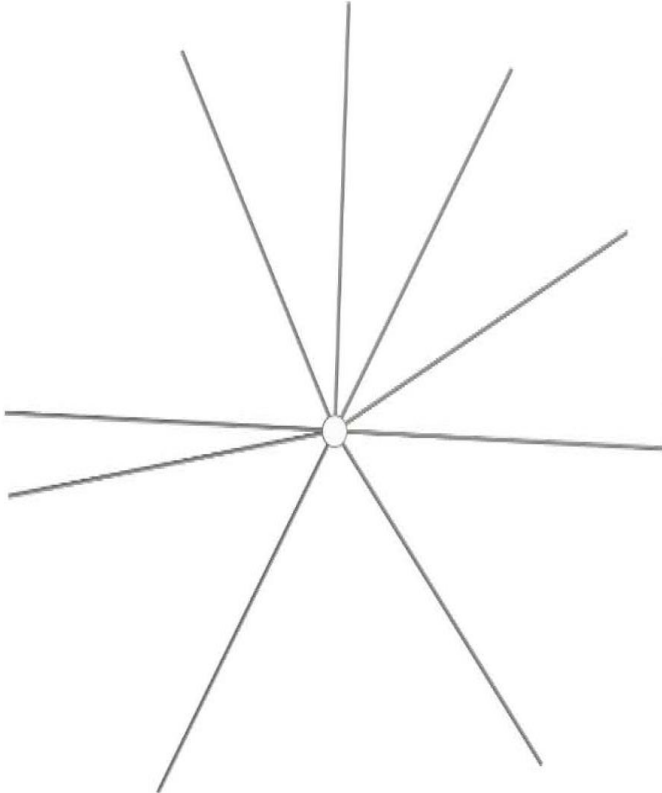


Case Study: DEI + A



- Angela Dowell
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - NDFC Board Member

CCLF Case Study – DEI Framework



CCLF DEI Framework Current State



CCLF DEI Framework Future State

CCLF Case Study – DEI Framework

DEI Strategic Objectives

- Organizational Culture
- Employee Experience
- Hiring
- Learning & Development
- **Equitable Lending**

DEI Organization Levels



Staff & Board of Directors






**Borrowers/
Developers**



Project End Users

CCLF Case Study – Incorporating Accessibility

	Staff & Board of Directors	Train staff and/or hire consultants to build disability finance knowledge.
	Borrowers/ Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer workshops and technical assistance to developers to understand how to make their projects more accessible and how to better serve people with disabilities.• Offer interest rate reductions to borrowers that incorporate accessibility into their projects.
	Project End Users	Within four years increase the number of projects that incorporate accessibility to 10% of annual lending.

Policy Update: Disability Awareness



- **Primary updates:**

- People with Disabilities as an Other Target Population
- Disability Finance – Financial Assistance
- CRA



Policy Update: OTP

- People with Disabilities as an Other Target Population
 - Increase flexibility for CDFIs to lend beyond income level and geographic constraints of current target market criteria
 - Expand ability of disability service providers to apply for certification



CDFI Fund DF-FA Background / Goals

Background:

- DF-FA annual set aside has grown from \$2million to \$10million
- Over 30 organizations have received \$100,000 to \$500,000 each

Goals:

- FY 2023: Stay at \$10 million for set aside
- Address limitations such as maximum award and match
- Advocate for Technical Assistance



Policy Update: CRA

August 2022 Comment Letter

- Explicit consideration for people with disabilities in CRA lending, investment, and services
- Reference the ADA with the listing of other applicable laws, such as UDAAP and Military Lending Act
- Include as sample CRA activities examples of PWD benefiting from investments, lending, and/or service activities in housing, assistive technology, and/or transportation



Take Action and Get Involved

Become a member: <https://disability-finance.org/members/>

- Include names of colleagues
- Share disability finance stories <https://disability-finance.org/success-stories/>

CD Professionals with Disabilities Affinity GroupS

- Personal support
- Professional support
- Technology and accessibility

Capacity Building – Training opportunities in 2023

Contact Us

- NDFC:
 - Pam Porter pam@steppingstonepartners.com
 - Andrew Porter andrew@steppingstonepartners.com
- DOF:
 - Charlie Hammerman chammerman@thedof.org
- Northwest Access Fund
 - Emerson Sekins emerson@nwaccessfund.org
- Chicago Community Loan Fund
 - Angela Bennett abennett@cclfchicago.org

Questions

