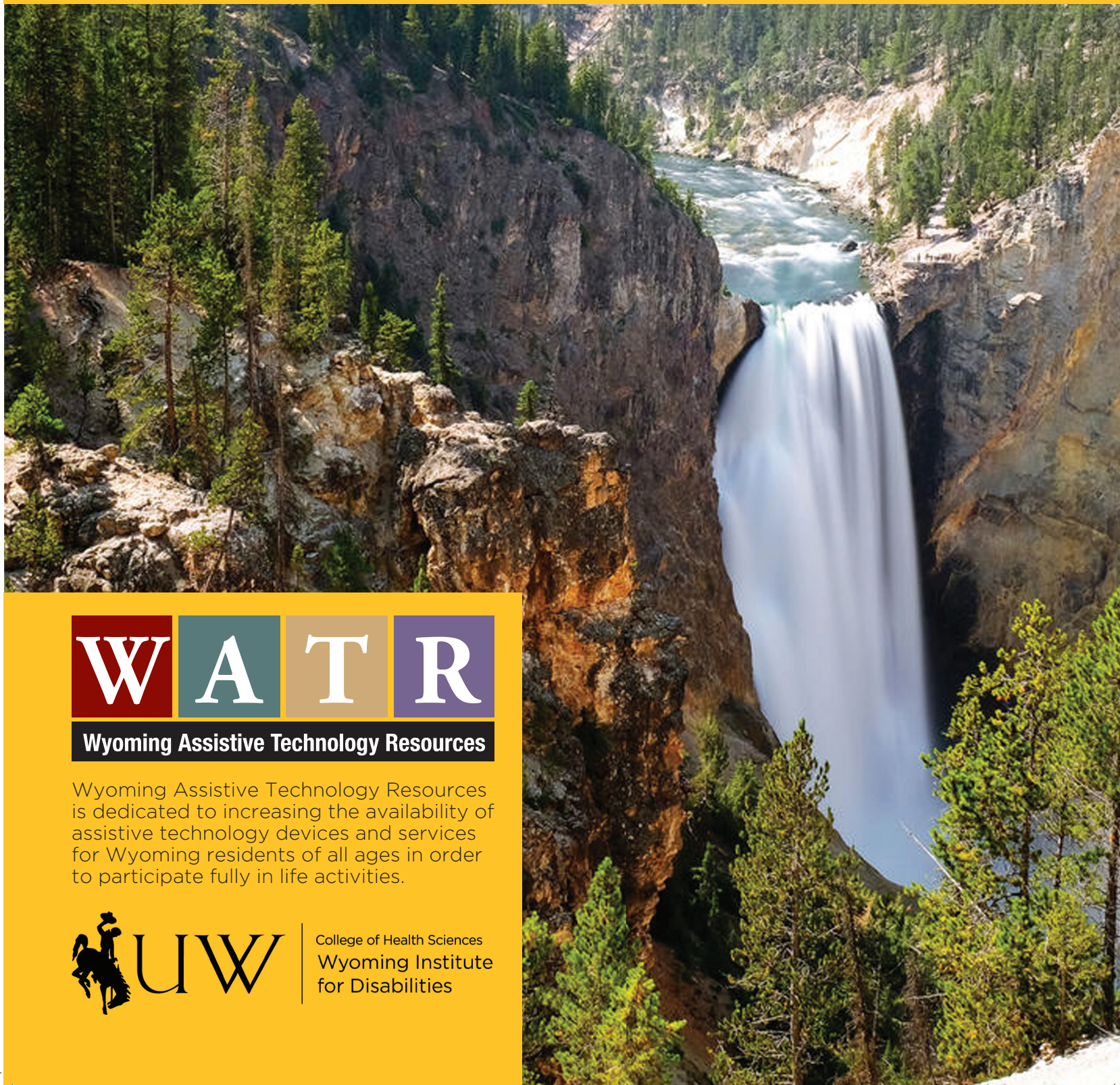




Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources

FY 2020-21 Annual Report



W A T R

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources is dedicated to increasing the availability of assistive technology devices and services for Wyoming residents of all ages in order to participate fully in life activities.



UW

College of Health Sciences
Wyoming Institute
for Disabilities



About Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) is authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as reauthorized in 2004 (AT Act). The AT Act allows for funding to programs that provide greater access to assistive technology. WATR was established in 2005, and it is one of sixty AT Act programs, with one in each state and territory. WATR activities include device demonstrations, loans, training, technical assistance, information, and assistance. WATR activities also facilitate device acquisition through device reuse and a financial loan program.

Greetings from the Co-Managers

These past two years have been a challenge like no other, as we continue to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) team faced many challenges, and through virtual interactions and events, we continued to provide information and assistance sessions, demonstrations, and trainings, for continuation of AT service delivery and lending at a critical time. We appreciate the work of everyone who helped partner with WATR to provide these services, as well as the ingenuity and patience of the Wyoming community.

We were truly honored to form new and solidify old partnerships to support Wyoming residents' needs during the pandemic. Partnerships with the Wyoming Center on Nursing, and the Wyoming Center on Aging, helped provide training to and get technology into the hands of older adults to decrease social isolation and connect to online resources for healthcare, vaccinations, and other critical areas.

We are pleased to provide this annual report. We are grateful for your ongoing support and participation, as we focus on our mission of increasing the availability of AT devices and services for Wyoming residents of all ages in order to participate fully in life activities.

Ryan Rausch, MOT, OTR, ATP
Terri Wofford, MS CCC-SLP



WATR partnered with local senior centers to connect residents via Zoom to resources and activities.



**2020-2021 Device Loans:
354 borrowers
and 798 devices**

Device Financing

9 loans were made:

- 3 Environmental Adaptations
- 3 Hearing
- 2 Vehicle Modifications
- 1 Mobility

Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP) is a collaboration between Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, Wyoming Independent Living, and First Interstate Bank of Laramie. The specialized financial loan program offers interest buydown for individuals who want to purchase assistive technology with an extended pay-back period.



Device Reuse

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources reuse program provides infrastructure opportunities for individuals to exchange, sell, and recycle lightly-used assistive technology throughout the state of Wyoming. Sale profits allow WATR to buy, update, and maintain new assistive technology devices.

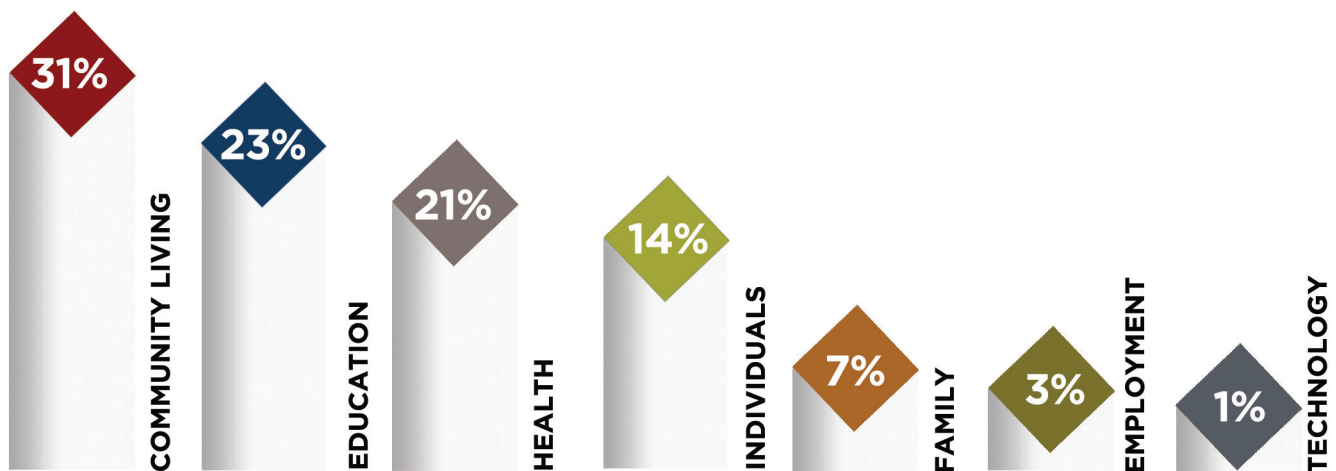
2020-2021 Device Reuse Savings to 67 Wyoming consumers: \$29,881

Device Demonstrations

WATR arranges customized device demonstrations focusing on potential solutions on an individualized basis. By providing an opportunity for individuals with disabilities, caregivers, professionals, employers, or anyone with a curiosity about assistive technology to see a wide range of devices, WATR provides a valuable service to the community.

For 2020 - 2021, there were 774 total device demonstrations.

2020-2021 DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS BY PARTICIPANT



Training and Technical Assistance

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources offers UW ECHO in Assistive Technology as part of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities' ECHO training network. Now in its seventh year, this



network continues to build capacity for assistive technology in education, health, and disability services. The network uses an

interdisciplinary team that connects biweekly to learn about AT and best practices in their settings. Since its inception, ECHO in Assistive Technology has hosted 182 network sessions, with 915 unique individuals participating, for a total attendance of 2,425. In addition, WATR

provides in-person and distance training and technical assistance across the state. Visit: www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/training/index.html for current schedules.

Information and Assistance

Over the 2020 - 2021 period, WATR responded to more than twice the typical number of Information and Assistance calls due to COVID-19. Many recipients were looking for technology to aid students, clients, or themselves in remote work and learning from home.

Affiliated Projects and Partnerships

Wyoming Accessible Educational Materials Clearinghouse

The Wyoming Accessible Educational Materials Clearinghouse coordinates the requests and provision of accessible educational materials for eligible Wyoming students with disabilities. Through a contract with the Wyoming Department of Education, the clearinghouse works with districts to meet the requirements of the 2004 Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. WATR assists with the provision of AT devices and strategies to access digital and specialized formats.



WYOMING ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Wyoming iCanConnect Program



Wyoming's iCanConnect program provides communications technology free of charge to

low income people of all ages who experience both vision and hearing loss. This program distributes communications equipment to qualified ed individuals and provides equipment installation, training, and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.



College of Health Sciences
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

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