

# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

November 21, 2011

NDBEDP Administrator  
Disability Rights Office  
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Administrator:

On behalf of individuals in Wyoming and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND), I am pleased to submit the attached proposal for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. WIND proposes to develop and implement the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (WyDBEDP) in collaboration with state agencies and national organizations. This will ensure that individuals in Wyoming who are deaf-blind and meet low income eligibility criteria will receive the equipment and training they need for communication through the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

Thank you for this opportunity and my direct contact information is provided in the application if you require more information.

Sincerely,



Sandy Root-Elledge  
Associate Director

Attachments

**Wyoming Institute for Disabilities**  
Wyoming Application for  
**National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program**

**Proposal to Federal Communications Commission**  
November 21, 2011

**I. Background and Needs for Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program in Wyoming.**

The Federal Communications Commission established “a National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) to certify and provide funding to entities in each state so that they can distribute specialized customer premises equipment (CPE) to low-income [400 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines] individuals who are deaf-blind [as defined by the Helen Keller National Center Act]. These individuals need such specialized CPE to effectively access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services.”

Advances in technology have dramatically changed the way in which Americans communicate. The wide variety of digital and Internet based voice, text, and video communication methods allow individuals to achieve greater independence, productivity, safety and security. The creation of these technologies has enabled Americans to use new ways to find employment, purchase products, and engage in the civil and social life of their communities. However, these new technologies have remained largely unavailable to or inaccessible for Americans who are deaf-blind.

**Target Communities.** There are over one million people potentially eligible for the NDBEDP nationally. As the populations of premature children and older individuals grow, the number of individuals who are deaf-blind will also increase significantly.

According to the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB), no single source or conclusive data exists to coherently represent the number of children with deaf-blindness in the U.S. Estimates from their most recent report (*The 2009 National Child Count of Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind*) place the number at least near 10,000. It has been estimated that the adult deaf-blind population numbers 35,000 – 40,000 (Watson and Taft-Watson, 1993 in Jacobsen, K., et al., 2009).

The causes of deaf-blindness are many (Miles, 2008). The adult population experiencing combined hearing and vision loss includes the over age twenty-two population who age out of the children’s programs, a significant number of adults with hearing and vision loss due to Usher syndrome, as well as adults who experience acquired deaf-blindness through disease, accident or trauma.

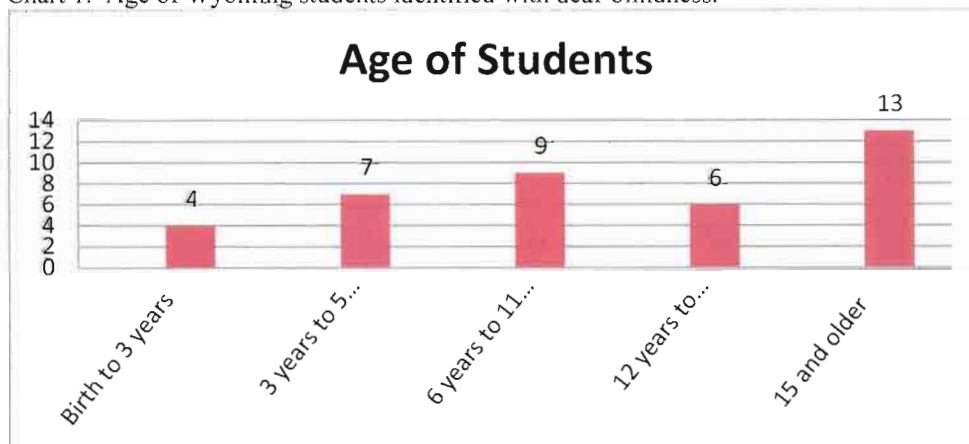
In addition, Americans with age related combined hearing and vision loss are the fastest growing segment of the population who will benefit from this program.

*Vision and hearing impairments are among the most common age-related conditions affecting the elderly. While there is an emerging literature regarding the profound functional, social, and physical and mental health consequences of either a vision or hearing impairment in later life, there is a dearth of existing knowledge regarding both short- and long-term consequences of dual sensory impairment for older persons. Yet, with the aging of the population, the numbers of older people experiencing a concurrent age-related loss in vision and hearing can be expected to grow substantially. Even current estimates of the prevalence of dual sensory impairments among the elderly range from 4% to 21%, depending upon used definitions and/or sources of data<sup>1</sup>.*

**Wyoming Situation and Needs.** Wyoming has a population of 563,262, the least populated state in the nation that can be surpassed by cities in most states. Wyoming is the tenth largest state by area. Two-thirds of the state’s area is covered with mountains and rangelands of the Eastern Rocky Mountains. There are two main highways that provide north-south and east-west access and minimal secondary roads. Our winter weather frequently restricts travel. Roads along with just a few public transportation systems available except in major towns, Wyoming has limited intrastate and interstate transportation. All of these issues combine to complicate access to services, especially for individuals with disabilities. The Wyoming Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (WyDBEDP) will offer information, assessments and equipment to individuals in the state and near their homes that have until now been unavailable or limited.

According to 2010 Wyoming Department of Education reports, there are 39 students through age twenty-one who have been identified as having deaf-blindness. Of those identified, fifty-one per cent are female and forty-nine per cent are male. Ages of those identified range from birth to twenty-two years; Chart 1, below, provides an illustration of those identified by age groupings.

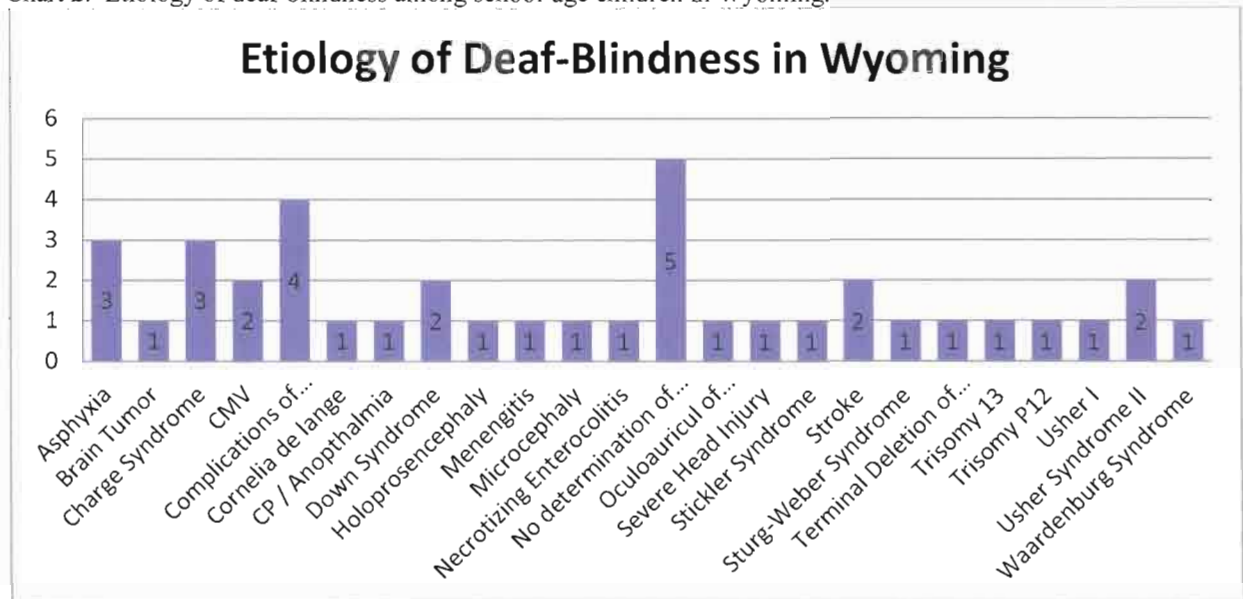
Chart 1. Age of Wyoming students identified with deaf-blindness.



<sup>1</sup>Lighthouse International’s report “Dual Sensory Impairment Among the Elderly” follow this link: <http://www.lighthouse.org/research/archived-studies/dual/>

Reflecting national and adult patterns, the etiology of deaf-blindness among students in Wyoming varies. Chart 2, below, illustrates the deaf-blindness etiology of Wyoming students with the most common etiology being unknown. Identified students are receiving their education in 16 of the 48 Wyoming school districts.

Chart 2. Etiology of deaf-blindness among school-age children in Wyoming.



Referring to the estimated 10,000 students in United States having deaf-blindness, the 39 Wyoming students represent .0039 per cent. Using the estimate that 35,000-40,000 adults in the United States have deaf-blindness and applying the .0039 rate of prevalence among Wyoming students, it could be estimated that Wyoming has at least 155 adults with deaf-blindness.

According to a 2010 U.S. Census Report, in Wyoming 9.8% of individuals and 6.3% of families were living under the federal poverty level in 2009. Another report by the Census Bureau (American Community Survey, 2010), indicates the average median family income in Wyoming in 2009 was \$53,236, twenty fifth in the nation but below 400 percent of the poverty level. In 2010, the Lewan Group (Families USA.org) estimated that 59,800 Wyomingites will qualify for tax credits through the Affordable Care Act, a program that similarly qualifies people whose income falls under 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Although it cannot be determined who among the 39 students and 155 estimated adults in Wyoming with deaf-blindness would qualify for WyDBEDP based on income, it is likely that the program will identify up to 200 people who are eligible for the program.

## II. Responding to the Needs of Wyoming Deaf-Blind Population.

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is applying to become the certified program to participate in the NDBEDP and to receive reimbursement for its activities from the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund. WIND is Wyoming's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); lead agency for the state's Assistive Technology Act (AT Act) program, WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR);



contracted agency for the Wyoming Clearinghouse for Accessible Instructional Materials; and home of the Wyoming Accessibility Center. As the state's UCEDD, WIND develops and delivers pre-service education as well as training to individuals with disabilities and their families and the professionals who support them; administers community services and programs; conducts research and provides information, all related to disabilities. WATR conducts six assistive technology activities: device loans, device demonstrations, a device reutilization program, training and technical assistance to professionals, in-depth information and assistance based on individual contacts or questions about devices and services, and public awareness. WIND subcontracts with a community organization to provide a financial loan program for individuals who need to buy an assistive technology device but cannot qualify for a traditional loan. Through a contract with the Wyoming Department of Education, WIND administers the Wyoming Clearinghouse for Accessible Instructional Materials that coordinates alternative materials on behalf of Wyoming students who have vision or print disabilities. WIND also administers the Wyoming Accessibility Center which provides fees-for-services assistive technology assessments as well as the conversion of materials into alternative formats, including Braille, digital and large print.

WIND is well-positioned to administer the WyDBEDP to meet the communication access needs of individuals in Wyoming who are deaf-blind. WIND is aware that the potential benefits from this program for children and adults who are deaf-blind are enormous. To enhance WIND's ability to meet the requirements of the program as defined by The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (21<sup>st</sup> CVAA), WIND will collaborate with the Perkins School for the Blind (Perkins) and Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC). Within Wyoming, WIND will collaborate with the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's Relay Equipment Distribution Center and Wyoming Services for the Visually Impaired and Wyoming Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. By combining WIND's expertise with that of state agencies and national organizations, WIND maximizes resources to meet the communication needs of those in Wyoming who are deaf-blind.

**Goal and Objectives.** WIND proposes to implement WyDBEDP, a three year pilot program designed to provide equipment to as many Wyoming individuals as possible who are deaf-blind and low income to enable them to effectively access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services. To meet this goal, WIND proposes the six objectives with associated activities; outlined in Chart 3 below.

Chart 3. WyDBEDP Goal, Objectives, Activities.

<b>Goal:</b> WyDBEDP will provide equipment to as many Wyoming individuals as possible who are deaf-blind and low income to enable them to effectively access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services.	
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Activities</b>
I. Increase awareness about the WyDBEDP	In collaboration with Perkins School for the Blind: -establish toll free telephone line with TTY capabilities through which people can receive individualized answers to their questions and information about the program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-establish a website that will provide information about the program, eligibility, services, FCC rules, complaint process, whistle blower provisions and links to electronic forms; the site will be fully accessible</li> <li>-develop and disseminate a program brochure that will provide information about eligibility, services, FCC rules, complaint process and whistle blower provisions</li> <li>-track awareness activities to determine effectiveness and to provide continual improvement</li> </ul>
II. Implement WyDBEDP eligibility processes, aligned with national requirements, for program based upon disability and income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop eligibility process and materials for WyDBEDP</li> <li>- Establish eligibility process for Wyoming individuals</li> <li>- Review applications to determine eligibility</li> </ul>
III. Identify appropriate devices and equipment for eligible individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide assessments to eligible individuals to identify equipment that addresses their distance communication needs</li> <li>- Research appropriate equipment needs for each individual</li> </ul>
IV. Distribute equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Procure and install equipment as a long term loan</li> <li>-Train individual consumers on the set up and effective use of equipment</li> </ul>
V. Provide subsequent technical assistance as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provide technical support and training to consumers who have received equipment through the program</li> <li>-Assist with repairs, warranties, and replacement of non-functioning equipment</li> </ul>
VI. Conduct program evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-In collaboration with Perkins School for the Blind, implement database system to track contacts, eligibility, assessments, equipment, training and timeframes for each</li> <li>-Conduct financial audit</li> <li>-Conduct follow-up to determine satisfaction with program, degree to which equipment provided increased communication, and how program can continue to provide assistance</li> </ul>

**III. Implementation.** To provide CEPs to as many qualifying individuals as possible, WyDBEDP's work is described in more detail below.

- A. *Marketing and outreach.* Together with Perkins and HKNC, WyDBEDP will develop and produce online and print materials to distribute to key stakeholders, groups and constituents in Wyoming to ensure we reach as broad an audience as possible. Because of the diversity of the target population, materials and outreach efforts will be tailored to specific segments. The strategies employed to reach eligible young adults transitioning out of school will be quite different from the strategies employed to reach seniors whose significant combined sensory losses may have made routine communication with family and friends difficult or impossible.

- a. *Print Materials* will include a program brochure in accessible formats that will detail eligibility description, services available, FCC rules, contact information, complaint process provisions. [§ 64.610(e) (vi)]
- b. *Website* with program descriptions, contact information, an eligibility description, services available, FCC rules, complaint process, whistle blower provisions, and links to electronic forms. [§ 64.610(f) (v)]

WIND already reaches thousands of individuals annual with disability information and our information dissemination efforts will now include WyDBEDP materials. We will reach out to new individuals and organizations to distribute specific WyDBEDP information. Outreach efforts will include targeting key existing organizations and government agencies as well as relevant conferences and workshops. We will distribute and mail brochures and also use social media and listserves for electronic communications.

WyDBEDP will generate public awareness through various media outlets. Many people who might qualify do not define themselves as “deaf-blind.” We will raise awareness among people who might not traditionally consider themselves deaf-blind.

- B. *Assessment and training.* Due to the complex nature and challenges of deaf-blindness and the extreme variability of vision, hearing and skill levels, the number of training hours required by individuals may vary greatly. We understand that while it is critical to be efficient in the delivery of these services, there is no cap on assessment or training hours. As we anticipate the assessment and training needs, we will endeavor to conduct assessments and training in the most cost effective manner, including, but not limited to:
- Providing training in an individual’s residence when feasible and bringing individuals to intensive center-based training when required;
  - Utilizing assessors and trainers from Wyoming, but, in certain circumstances, may need to bring in a qualified assessor or trainer from another state (In such circumstances, travel and other associated expenses will be considered a related service);
  - Incorporating the costs of any communication support an individual may require, including but not limited to visual or tactile sign language interpreters (up to 2 per individual for certain trainings), interveners, support service providers (SSPs), foreign language interpreters and other reasonable expenses relating to communication (In such circumstances, travel and other associated expenses will be considered a related service);
  - Initial assessments will be conducted to determine what type of equipment will be productive and useful. Once an assessment is completed the equipment will be ordered. When the equipment arrives training will be scheduled for the client. The training may be conducted at the client’s home, office or other mutually convenient location. In certain cases the client might be asked to travel outside Wyoming for the training. (In this circumstance travel and other associated expenses will be considered a related service.)

WyDBEDP will conduct eligibility determinations, assessments, and provide training and technical support as follows:

- *Eligibility Determination* [§ 64.610(d), § 64.610(e) (1) (iii)]: WyDBEDP will review documentation submitted by applicants and follow up with attestation contacts to determine disability eligibility and financial eligibility. We will follow up with professionals who attest that the individual is deaf-blind, if necessary, and determine whether or not the individual is eligible to receive equipment and related services from this program. We will also gather all of the demographic information required to ensure a properly documented program.
- *Assessment* [§ 64.610(f) (2) (ii)]: WyDBEDP will provide resources to conduct face-to-face assessment of individuals to determine equipment needs, training requirements, and to recommend specific equipment. These resources include but are not limited to a qualified assessor and related services such as communication support, transportation support, etc.
- *Technical Support & Follow-Up Training* [§ 64.610(f) (2) (iii)]: WyDBEDP will offer a toll free Voice/TTY telephone number for technical support, to provide remote technical support to troubleshoot technical problems, to coordinate with equipment manufacturers' technical support services, and to provide face-to-face follow-up training. This will ensure all consumers, their family members, and their stakeholders have an accessible and responsive forum to have their questions answered. WyDBEDP will ensure that communication to individuals is provided by professionals familiar with providing technical support to individuals with disabilities.

C. *Equipment*. WyDBEDP will purchase equipment and devices of the highest quality and with the best available terms. We will provide CPE to eligible consumers on a long term loan basis. Ownership of equipment loaned for five years or longer will automatically transfer to the consumer. We will also strive to provide consumers with loaner or replacement equipment that matches their original equipment whenever possible. We will operate a loan program for certain items but will not necessarily be able to keep every item in stock all of the time. It may be necessary to substitute equipment and in some cases loaner equipment may not be available. We will work with manufacturers to provide training information in an accessible format. However if it is not available in a timely fashion, converting user manuals and other equipment related documents into accessible formats will be considered a related expense. We will seek to utilize volume to generate market efficiencies if possible.

WyDBEDP will follow these protocols regarding equipment:

- *Equipment procurement* [§ 64.610(f) (2) (iii)]: WyDBEDP will work with vendors to deliver required equipment and to manage payment to vendors. We will work with many different vendors to ensure we maximize the opportunities for program participants to receive the appropriate services and equipment.
- *Vendor Relations Management* [§ 64.610(g) (1) (vii)]: WyDBEDP will manage warranties, repairs, and upgrades with manufacturers that provide hardware, software and other products and services for this program.



- *Loaner Equipment Management* [§ 64.610(f) (2) (iv)]: WyDBEDP will procure duplicates of the most commonly installed equipment and arrange for transfer or loan when original equipment needs repair. We will also track all loaned equipment in a data base.
- *Installation & Training* [§ 64.610(f) (2) (iii)]: WyDBEDP will have resources to install equipment in recipients' homes and provide training in equipment usage. These resources include but are not limited to a qualified trainer, and related services such as communication support, transportation support, etc.
- *Ongoing Training Management* could be administered in a variety of formats including, but not limited to:
  - One-on-one training at the individual's home
  - Small group training
  - Bringing trainers from another state if trainers cannot be identified from within Wyoming
  - Bringing individuals to trainers in another state if appropriate. We will seek to utilize the lowest cost and most efficient for the specific client's needs. These trainings may include communications support (including sign language) and related travel costs.

D. *Database*. WyDBEDP will contract with Perkins for use of their comprehensive data management tool<sup>2</sup> that will allow us to track and generate information and reports for all aspects of this program including billing, equipment distribution, assessment or clients, warrantees, service requests, and received/not received. This database is specifically prepared for the NDBEDP and will be adapted for WyDBEDP.

The key areas we intend to track and manage:

- *Managing intake and applicant information* [§ 64.610(g) (i)]
- *Eligibility*: verification of disability [as defined in 47 CFR 64.610 (c) (1)]; attestation forms, existing documentation recording, required contact information for attesting professionals [§ 64.610 (d) (i) and § 64.610 (g) (1)(ii)]
- *Verification of income status* [as defined at 42 U.S.C. § 9902(2)] and cross reference to other qualifying federal programs [§ 64.610 (2)]
- *Tracking equipment distribution and related services*. This includes:
  - Distributed equipment description and function [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (iii)].
  - *The cost, time and resources allocated to*: initial assessment [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (v)] and time between assessment completion and equipment installation [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (iv)]; installing equipment and training individuals who are deaf-blind to use it [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (vi)]; maintain, repair, cover under warranty and refurbish equipment [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (vii)]; upgrading equipment and the nature of upgrades [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (ix)]; outreach activities and types [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (viii)].

---

<sup>2</sup> Developed based on Perkins' participation in the National Library Service through the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library) and other programs, this tool is specifically designed to make all aspects of the required NDBEDP reporting easy and user-friendly. The system will be internet-based and will ensure confidentiality among all users.

- Equipment requests, denials, details and rationale [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (x)].
- Complaint management [§ 64.610 (g) (1) (xi)].
- Waiting lists § 64.610 [(g) (1) (xii)].
- Transfer of equipment and recipient's account to another state [§ 64.610 (e) (1) (iii)]. (Since this is a state database and not one national database, it will be difficult to definitely know if a client has received services or equipment from another state if they recently moved.)
- Transfer of another state's distributed equipment to recipient's new state of residence [§ 64.610 (e) (1) (iv)]. (Since this is a state database and not one national database, it will be difficult to definitely know if a client has received services or equipment from another state if they recently moved.)
- Track equipment to monitor for illegal resale or transfer [§ 64.610 (e) (1) (v)].
- *Report Generation:*
  - Documentation to support claims to FCC for reasonable reimbursement every six months (or more frequently if possible) [§ 64.610 (f) (2)]. (Please see request for exemption below)
  - Documentation for required electronic reporting every six months [§ 64.610 (g) (1)]. (Please see request for exemption below.)
  - Documentation required for mandated annual audit [§ 64.610 (e) (1) (vii)].

**IV. Expected Outcomes.** To provide equipment to as many Wyoming individuals as possible who are deaf-blind and low income to enable them to effectively access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services, WyDBEDP will:

- Document program contacts to determine increases in awareness
- Develop intake, eligibility and assessment process to ensure eligibility is determined in a timely manner
- Identify, procure and install equipment in a timely manner after eligibility and completed assessments
- Provide training and technical support in a timely manner, preferable within ten days of equipment installation
- Provide technical support and follow up training to all consumers who have received equipment through the program
- Assist with repairs, warranties and replacement of non-functioning equipment
- Have functioning database that will track contacts, eligibility, assessments, equipment, training and timeframes
- Conduct program evaluation to determine satisfaction with and effectiveness of program support

**V. Organizational Expertise.** As described in section II above, WIND is well-positioned to administer the state's DBEDP to meet the communication access needs of individuals in Wyoming who are deaf-blind. The principal investigator for this program will be Sandy Root-Elledge, Associate Director of WIND and Director of WATR, the state's Assistive Technology Act Program. Root-Elledge developed several successful programs for WIND, including the WATR program beginning in 2004, the Wyoming Clearinghouse for Accessible Instructional

Materials, and the Wyoming Accessibility Center. Oversight of the day-to-day operations will be provided by Kathleen Flagg McWhorter who brings over three decades of assistive technology experience and nationally recognized expertise in the state-of-the art conversion of materials to alternative formats. McWhorter along with other WATR staff members who will bring expertise to WyDBEDP all have Assistive Technology Professional or Assistive Technology Specialist credentials. The WIND website provides pages and further information about the professionals and programs that are available to ensure the success of WyDBEDP (<http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/>). WIND is administratively positioned in the College of Health Sciences (<http://www.uwyo.edu/hs/>) at the University of Wyoming (<http://www.uwyo.edu>), the state's only four year university, which provides access to a wealth of expertise, information, and research. As part of the international network of UCEDDs, WIND has access to educators, trainers and researchers throughout the world in the field of disabilities.

Collaboration with state agencies including Wyoming Relay Equipment Distribution Center, Wyoming Services for the Visually Impaired, Wyoming Services for the Hearing Impaired, and the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project, organizations will bring specific expertise to the program. Professionals from these agencies have agreed to provide content-specific knowledge, assessments, training, and consultation to WyDBEDP.

Collaboration with Perkins and HKNC will provide extensive experience to Wyoming in support of WyDBEDP. They both offer extensive expertise in working with consumers who are deaf-blind and their families. Both agencies employ staff who are deaf-blind and are experienced in providing both an accessible and respectful environment for individuals.

Perkins serves over 200 students at their Watertown campus, including about 60 students who are deaf-blind, and provides education and services directly reaching 200,000 children and adults around the world. Perkins is committed to using technology and both promoting and developing universally designed technology tools that are accessible to all. Perkins advocates for increased Braille literacy to help individuals secure a job and live independently. Perkins is a partner in The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB), a national technical assistance and dissemination center for children and youth which works collaboratively with families, federal, state and local agencies to provide technical assistance, information and personnel training. Perkins provides services to individuals who are deaf-blind in the United States and in 65 countries around the world. Perkins, as well as HKNC, plays a prominent role in the National Coalition on Deaf-blindness and helped to advocate for passage of the *21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act* and they have provided feedback to the FCC about proposed rules which will govern the NDBEDP. ([www.perkins.org](http://www.perkins.org))

HKNC has a network of field services and staff providing information, training and support to individuals, organizations, and communities across the country. Their regional office in Denver is just 146 miles from Laramie, which will enable them to provide the support and services WyDBEDP may need. They are a partner agency in the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness. HKNC has a long history of providing one-to-one training on the latest technology to adults who are deaf-blind. They offer professional training seminars that demonstrate the newest devices being used by people who are deaf-blind as well as techniques for teaching consumers how to use this equipment.

**VI. Financial Resources Required.** It is our understanding that Wyoming’s anticipated annual award is \$61,987. Chart 4, below, provides a categorization of the distribution of funds for anticipated expenditures, all based on the Federal Communications Commission Report and Order (April 6, 2011). WIND will ensure the expenses are managed within the allocations of 85 per cent for service related expenses and 15 per cent toward administrative expenses; and WIND will maintain budget management accordingly. The University of Wyoming will submit invoices within 30 days after the end of each six-month period of the funding year as allowed in the Report and Order.

Chart 4. Annual funding award for Wyoming by allowable expenditures.

	<b>Service Related Expenses</b>	<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Funding</b>	\$ 52,689	\$ 9,298	\$ 61,987
<b>Anticipated Expenditures</b>	Technology research Technology assessments Technology report writing Related travel expenses Accommodations for contractors/employees who have disabilities Contract fees for trainers, technical assistance directly related to client needs Equipment for individuals Extended warranties Cables, batteries, switches, clamps Shipping Instruction manuals in alternate formats Production of Braille or other alternatively formatted materials Interpreting Related travel expenses for the service related activities Equipment maintenance/repair	Database @ .03 contract rate from Perkins Reporting requirements Accounting Audits Oversight General staffing Program administration UW indirect cost rate @ .10, based on same rate for AT Act program	

The range of costs for equipment for individuals is anticipated to be between \$2,000 and \$20,000. Each client may benefit from more than one piece of equipment that performs different functions. The specialized equipment will be delivered, setup and installed in the client’s location, then personalized training on the equipment will be provided to the client. We anticipate that individualized trainings may average 10-20 hours. However the actual hours will vary significantly based on the client’s specific needs. As there is no official limit to the number

of combined hours of training and communications support, we will use reasonable judgment in scheduling these services.

In many cases specialized training is best received when provided in multiple short training sessions, not to exceed a few hours in length at any one time. Grasping new technology, especially a combination of new devices can be frustrating, and in some circumstances require follow up training. We propose to provide these services, either directly or through contracts with agency partners as necessary, at market rate per hour, with additional related services costs for interpreter and travel expenses. Market prices in Wyoming range from \$50 to \$200 per professional hour. When feasible and appropriate, we will utilize trainers who are deaf, blind or deaf-blind. Costs related to accommodations and supports that enable them to perform their jobs, e.g., interpreters, drivers, etc. are part of the hourly rate. There may be unique cases where we will need to invite a trainer from another state. The prices for this may be greater. This training will be used only when in state training resources are not available. Also, as mentioned before, in some cases the most efficient way to provide training to an individual may be through center-based services. Costs related for individuals to travel to and from, as well as services provided in the center will be included.

For each piece of equipment distributed, we will track the following information in the secure database:

- identity of and contact information about individuals receiving equipment;
- identity of and contact information about individuals attesting to the disability of the individual who is deaf-blind;
- equipment name, serial number, brand, function, and cost, the type of communications service with which it is used, and the type of relay service it can access;
- amount of time, following any assessment conducted, that the requesting individual waited to receive that equipment;
- costs, time and any other resources allocated to assessing an individual's equipment needs;
- costs, time and any other resources allocated to installing equipment and training deaf-blind individuals on using equipment;
- costs, time and any other resources allocated to maintain, repair, cover under warranty, and refurbish equipment;
- costs, time and any other resources allocated to outreach activities related to the WyDBEDP, and the types of outreach efforts undertaken; and,
- costs, time and any other resources allocated to upgrading the distributed equipment, along with the nature of such upgrades.

Required reporting will include that information as well as:

- equipment requested by individuals who are deaf-blind but denied;
- summary of the number and types of equipment requests denied and reasons for such denials;
- complaints related to the program;
- summary of the number and types of such complaints, and their resolution; and,



- the current number of qualified applicants on a waiting list; however, we do not anticipate a need to develop a waiting list.

Assurances. In addition to the services described above, WyDBEDP will:

- permit transfer of the recipient's account and any control of the distributed equipment to the new state's certified program, when a recipient relocates to another state;
- permit transfer of equipment from a prior state, by that state's DBEDP certified program;
- prohibit recipients from transferring equipment received under the NDBEDP to another person through sale or otherwise to the best of our ability;
- engage an independent auditor to perform annual audits designed to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, and submit, as necessary, to audits arranged by the Commission, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, the NDBEDP Administrator, or the TRS Fund Administrator for such purpose;
- retain all records associated with the distribution of equipment and provision of related services under the NDBEDP for two years following the termination of the pilot program; and
- comply with the reporting requirements contained in 47 CFR 64.610(g).

We assure that WyDBEDP will not:

- impose restrictions on specific brands, models or types of communications technology that recipients may receive to access the communications services covered in this section;
- disable or otherwise intentionally make it difficult for recipients to use certain capabilities, functions, or features on distributed equipment that are needed to access the communications services covered in this section, or direct manufacturers or vendors of specialized CPE to disable or make it difficult for recipients to use certain capabilities, functions, or features on distributed equipment that are needed to access the communications services covered in this section; or
- accept any type of financial arrangement from equipment vendors that could incentivize the purchase of particular equipment.

**VII. Attachments.** Attached are letters of support from key partners. Also attached are brochures from WIND's WATR (child, adult and Spanish versions) and Clearinghouse (accessible instructional materials) programs.

### **VIII. References.**

*American Family Survey.* U.S. Census Bureau, 2010. Website.

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/statemedian/> Accessed November 2011.

Jacobsen, K. and Bjerkan, B, Sorlie, R. 2009. "Challenging behavior in an adult male with congenital deaf-blindness: analysis and intervention." *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*. Vol. 11, Issue 3.

Lewan, 2010. Lewan Report for Wyoming. *Lower taxes, lower premiums: the new health*

*insurance tax credit in Wyoming*. Report accessed at:  
<http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/health-reform/premium-tax-credits/Wyoming.pdf>  
November 2011.

Miles, B., & Riggio, M. (1998). *Remarkable conversations*. Watertown, MA: Perkins School for the Blind.

*National Child Count of Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind*, 2009. Website.  
<http://nationaldb.org/TACHildCount.php> Accessed November 2011.

*National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness*. Website. <http://www.nationaldb.org/>. Accessed November 2011.

*U.S. Census Bureau*, 2010. Website.  
<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0709.pdf> Accessed November 2011.

Watson and Taft-Watson, 1993. In Petroff, J.G., 1999. *National transition follow-up study of youth identified as deaf-blind*. Accessed at <http://nationaldb.org> November 2011. In Jacobsen, K. and Bjerkan, B, Sorlie, R. 2009. "Challenging behavior in an adult male with congenital deaf-blindness: analysis and intervention." *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*. Vol. 11, Issue 3.

Wyoming Department of Education, Special Services Unit, 2010. *Report on Student Receiving Special Education*.

**IX. Summary.** WIND is proud to submit this proposal to the Federal Communications Commission. WyDBEDP will enable individuals in Wyoming who are deaf-blind and have low incomes to receive quality assessments, appropriate equipment and the training they need to effectively access telecommunications service, Internet service and advanced communications through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century communication options.

**For further information**, contact:

Sandy Root-Elledge  
Associate Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)  
Director, WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)  
University of Wyoming  
1000 E. University, Department 4298  
Laramie, WY 82071  
(307) 766-2764  
[sre@uwyo.edu](mailto:sre@uwyo.edu)



**Matthew H. Mead**  
Governor

**State of Wyoming**  
**Department of Workforce Services**  
**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Herschler 1-East  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002  
307.777.7389 ■ Fax: 307.777.5939  
[www.wyomingworkforce.org](http://www.wyomingworkforce.org)



**Joan K. Evans**  
Director  
**Lisa M. Osvold**  
Deputy Director

November 15, 2011

Sandy Root- Elledge  
Associate Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)  
Director, WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)  
Department 4298  
1000 E. University Avenue  
Laramie, WY 82071


Dear Ms. Root-Elledge;

It is my pleasure to offer you this letter of support for your application to receive certification from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) pilot.

WY Relay EDP has enjoyed a collaborative working relationship with Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) and WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) to provide services and equipment to citizens with hearing and/or vision loss. We look forward to a continuing partnership to provide access to the Internet, advanced communications, and telecommunications to Wyoming's deaf-blind citizens. WY Relay EDP remains committed to providing special telephone equipment to Wyoming citizens who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired. WATR's ability to provide assessments, equipment, and training will be of great benefit to citizens with dual sensory loss.

I wish you much success in your endeavor to participate in the NDBEDP, and encourage the FCC to give your application appropriate consideration. If WY Relay EDP can provide assistance during the pilot, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,



Jim McIntosh  
Administrator,  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



We Bridge Human and Economic  
Development for Wyoming's Future.





# Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction

215 West Buffalo, Room 325

Rawlins, WY 82301

Phone: 307-324-5333 Fax: 307-324-3743 Website: [edu.wyoming.gov](http://edu.wyoming.gov)

November 20, 2011

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities  
Wyoming Application for  
National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

To whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project writes this letter of support on behalf of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, WIND, in their request to be part of the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program.

WIND has long been a supporter of the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Project through collaboration on the Wyoming Next Step Assessment Clinic for students who are sensory impaired, one of the main activities associated with the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Grant by providing AT assistance, evaluations and recommendations. In addition working with the Wyoming Department of Education as the administrators of the Wyoming Clearinghouse for Accessible Instructional Materials. The clearinghouse coordinates alternative materials for educators on behalf of Wyoming students who have vision or print disabilities. WIND also administers the Wyoming Accessibility Center which provides fees-for-services assistive technology and other assessments for individuals with disabilities as well as the conversion of materials into alternative formats, including Braille, digital and large print.

Their grant proposal proposes to implement a three year pilot program designed to provide equipment to as many Wyoming individuals as possible who are deaf-blind and low income enabling them to effectively access telecommunications service, Internet access service, and advanced communications, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services.

This service will assist individuals who are deaf-blind in the State of Wyoming through:

- learning about the Wyoming Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program,
- Identify appropriate devices and equipment for eligible individuals,
- Distribution of the appropriate equipment
- Provide subsequent technical assistance as needed
- Conduct program evaluation

The Wyoming Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program will assist Wyoming individuals who are deaf-blind and WIND would be the most appropriate recipient for this undertaking.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [joanne.whitson@wyo.gov](mailto:joanne.whitson@wyo.gov) or 307-324-5333

Thank you for your consideration on WIND's grand proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne B. Whitson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Joanne B. Whitson, Project Director  
WY Deaf-Blind Project  
Wyoming Department of Education

,





PERKINS  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

175 North Beacon Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
www.Perkins.org

Steven.Rothstein@Perkins.org  
617-972-7315 fax  
617-972-7200 phone

Steven M. Rothstein  
President

November 17, 2011

Sandy Root-Elledge  
Associate Director  
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)  
University of Wyoming  
Department 4298  
1000 E. University  
Laramie, WY 82071

Dear Sandy,

Perkins School for the Blind (Perkins) and the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) are delighted to write this letter of support for the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) application to become certified to participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NBEDP) for the state of Wyoming. We appreciate the leadership that WIND is taking in assuring that qualified low-income Wyoming residents who are deaf-blind have access to this exciting new program.

If WIND is awarded Wyoming's funding for this program, we will collaborate with on the following:

- Database Management System
- Outreach to include print materials, website template, distribution of outreach materials
- Training for consumers on an as needed basis
- Other services as determined during the implementation of the program

Thank you for this opportunity to collaborate with WIND and others in Wyoming to bring this program to fruition.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Rothstein  
President

---

# Helen Keller National Center

For Deaf-Blind Youth  
and Adults

Headquarters:

141 Middle Neck Road  
Sands Point, NY 11050  
516-944-8900 (Voice & TTY)  
516-944-7302 (FAX)

Regional Offices:

New England  
Boston, MA

Mid Atlantic  
Sands Point, NY

East Central  
Philadelphia, PA

Southeastern  
Atlanta, GA

North Central  
Chicago, IL

South Central  
Dallas, TX

Great Plains  
Kansas City, MO

Rocky Mountain  
Denver, CO

Southwestern  
San Francisco, CA

Northwestern  
Seattle, WA

Operated by  
Helen Keller Services  
for the Blind

Peter J. Salmon, LL.D.  
Founder

Joseph McNulty  
Director

Maureen McGowan,  
Supervisor -HKNC  
Regional Representatives  
1880 S. Pierce ST., SUITE 12  
Lakewood, CO 80232  
(303) 934-9037 (V)  
(866) 536-4543 (VP)  
(303)934-2939 (Fax)

November 18, 2011

To Whom it May Concern;

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Wyoming Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Pilot Project. The services you propose for the Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Project include providing assessments, equipment and training to access telecommunications, the internet and advanced communications. This will provide access to individuals of all ages with dual sensory loss in Wyoming.

Wyoming has consistently provided a variety of services related to assistive technology for citizens with disabilities. Helen Keller National Center has enjoyed a very close working relationship with Wyoming service providers and our consumers have benefited from these collaborative efforts.

The ability of your agency to bring together consumer and professional organizations for outreach and service delivery is well-tailored to best meet the needs of citizens of Wyoming. The entities involved in delivering services to those targeted in your proposal are well-prepared to plan and implement the services that will help fill the gaps for assistive technology for Wyoming residents who are deaf-blind.

We wish you the best in your endeavor and encourage the Federal Communications Commission to give your application the most serious consideration in funding this most worthwhile project. We look forward to continue working with you.

Sincerely,  
*Maureen McGowan*

Maureen McGowan  
Supervisor, Regional Representatives  
Helen Keller National Center  
1880 S. Pierce St. #12  
Lakewood, CO. 80232  
303-934-9037  
[Maureen.mcgowan@hknc.org](mailto:Maureen.mcgowan@hknc.org)

## CONSULTATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

Consultations and assessments are conducted on a contractual, fee-for-service basis. Consultations are tailored to meet the specific needs of each client and result in a written report containing suggestions for AT interventions. Comprehensive assistive technology assessments are much more prescriptive and extensive, and include a thorough review of records; meetings with teachers or employers; the individual and families to determine specific goals for which assistive technology would be warranted; multiple visits to the requesting site to assist with implementing the device; and measurement of outcomes to ensure that the device is meeting the individual's needs.



## PUBLIC AWARENESS

WATR strives to increase public awareness of assistive technology and disabilities in general across Wyoming.

## WYOMING TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM (WYTAP)

WYTAP is a financial loan program that offers interest buy-down for individuals who want to purchase assistive technology. Extended loan periods (up to 70 months) make it possible for people to buy the AT equipment they need through little-to-no-interest loans, thereby making payments more affordable.

## PROJECT MEMBERS

Sandy Raskelledge  
Program Director  
rsr@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-2764

Kathy McWhorter, Ed.S., AT Professional  
Project Coordinator, Sr.  
kmcwhor1@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5770

Barbara Locke, B.S., AT Professional  
Education/Outreach Coordinator  
blocke@uwyo.edu  
(307) 349-3547

Mary Ed. Monish, M.A.  
Project Coordinator  
mmonish@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-0187

Alyssa Newcomb, B.S.W.  
Project Coordinator, Assistant  
anewcom2@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5003

Gisèle Knopf  
Office Associate  
gknopf@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5031

Cathy Bigler, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Consultant, Speech Language Pathology

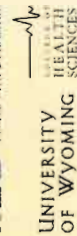
Renee Gray, OTR/L  
Consultant, Occupational Therapy



E-mail: [watr@uwyo.edu](mailto:watr@uwyo.edu)  
Phone: (307) 766-6187  
TTY: (307) 766-2720  
Toll-free: 1-888-989-WIND (9463)  
Fax: (307) 766-2763  
[www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr](http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr)



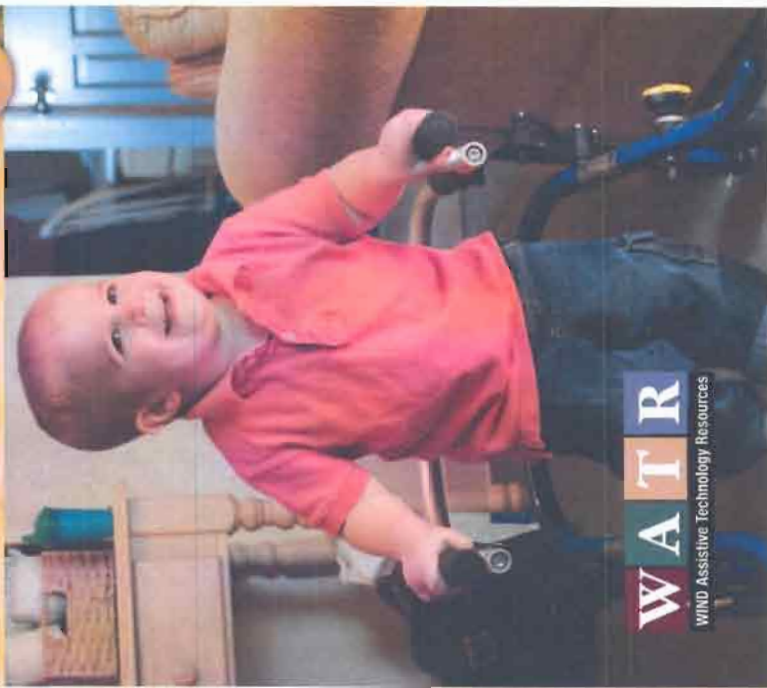
A FUTURE FIGHTING FOR  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



The caption of this brochure was developed under a grant from the Department of Education, Wyoming, and is the property of the Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.

2009/07/09

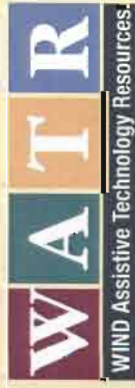
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES



WATR

WIND Assistive Technology Resources





#### ABOUT WIND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (WATR)

Initiated in October 2005, WATR is Wyoming's statewide assistive technology project. WATR is dedicated to providing high-quality information about assistive technology devices and services to increase knowledge and to facilitate participation in life activities. WATR's goals are to increase access to information about assistive technology and access to assistive technology devices for individuals, families, professionals, and caregivers. WATR specifically targets the areas of education, employment, community living, and IT/telecommunication.

#### WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive technology (AT) can be anything, bought or made, that helps to increase the functional capabilities and independence of people who face limitations in a given area of their lives.

#### ABOUT THE WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES (WIND)

The mission of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is to assist individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families by promoting and supporting full community inclusion, community membership, independence, productivity and social participation. WIND provides early intervention activities, training and technical assistance to professionals, research on disability issues and is home to the state assistive technology program and and

to the Accessible Instructional Materials Coordinating Center. Programs work collaboratively to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate services and supports.

#### DEVICE LOAN CENTER

Our Device Loan Center offers a wide variety of assistive technology for Wyoming individuals who are interested in borrowing a device for trial. Loan periods last six weeks and offer an opportunity to try devices so that educated decisions regarding future assistive technology device purchases may be made. If you would like to borrow a device, call our center, or search online at [www.wy.at4all.com](http://www.wy.at4all.com).

#### DEVICE DEMONSTRATION CENTER

We are located at the College of Health Sciences building 151, on the University of Wyoming campus, and welcome your requests for group or individual demonstrations. WATR staff will also provide onsite demonstrations that are customized to your needs.

#### DEVICE REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

WATR collaborates with other state programs to showcase devices available for free or purchase. At [www.wy.at4all.com](http://www.wy.at4all.com), you can purchase, sell, or donate AT equipment via the web. This online service expands our commitment to promoting statewide AT access and acquisition.

#### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

To enhance knowledge, skills and competencies regarding AT, we provide training for individuals with disabilities, family members, caregivers and professionals. Technical assistance is focused on providing direct problem-solving service to assist state or local agencies or entities in improving their services, management,



policies and/or outcomes. We can provide general information about device-specific training to meet your needs. Our staff members are also available to support local efforts to identify and implement best practices in the AT field.

## LAS CONSULTACIONES Y LAS EVALUACIONES

Las consultaciones y las evaluaciones son llevadas a cabo de manera contractual y pagadas por el servicio. Las consultaciones son diseñadas para reunir las necesidades de cada cliente y el resultado es un reporte escrito de sugerencias para intervenciones de AT (Tecnología Asistencial). Las evaluaciones exhaustivas de tecnología asistencial son mucho más preceptivas y amplias, e incluyen un repaso profundo de datos; reuniones con profesores o empleadores; el individuo y la familia para determinar los objetivos específicos donde la tecnología asistencial sería justificada; múltiples visitas al sitio para ayudar con la implementación del aparato; y midiendo los resultados para asegurar que el aparato reúna las necesidades del individuo.



## CONCIENCIA PÚBLICA

WATR se esfuerza por incrementar la conciencia pública de tecnología asistencial y discapacidades en general en todo el estado de Wyoming.

## PROGRAMA DE ACCESO A LA TECNOLOGÍA ASISTENCIAL

WYTAP es un programa de préstamos financieros que ofrece la compra de una tasa de interés más baja para las personas que quieren comprar tecnología asistencial. Periodos prolongados de préstamos (hasta los 70 meses) permiten que las personas puedan comprar la tecnología asistencial a través de préstamos de poco interés o no interés, de ese modo los plazos son asequibles.

## LOS MIEMBROS DEL PROYECTO

Sandy Roofbridge, M.A.  
Program Director  
sroof@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-2764

Kathy McWhorter, Ed.S., AT Professional  
Project Coordinator, ST  
kmcwhor1@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5770

Barbara Locke, B.S., AT Professional  
Education/Outreach Coordinator  
blocke@uwyo.edu  
(307) 349-3347

Mary Felt, Minterth, M.A., ATIS  
Project Coordinator  
mminter1@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-6187

Alysa Newcomb, B.S.W., ATIS  
Project Coordinator Assistant  
anewcom2@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5003

Gisela Knopf  
Project Coordinator Assistant  
gknopf@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-2051

Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Consultant, Speech Language Pathology  
Renee Gray, OT/L  
Consultant, Occupational Therapy



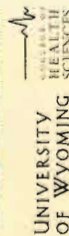
## WIND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES



Correo Electrónico:  
watr@uwyo.edu  
Teléfono: (307) 766-6187  
TTY: (307) 766-2720  
Número sin cargos:  
1-888-989-WIND (9463)  
Número de Fax: (307) 766-2763  
www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr



A FORCE FIGHTING FOR  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



El contenido de este folleto se ha desarrollado con fondos  
por medio de una subvención del Departamento de  
Educación de la Universidad de Wyoming. El contenido no  
debe ser usado para fines de lucro.

2017/04/06





### **SOBRE LOS WIND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (WATR)**

Iniciado en octubre de 2005, WATR es el programa de la Assistive Technology Act de Wyoming. WATR está dedicado a proporcionar las mejores prácticas e información de alta calidad y basada en la investigación de los aparatos y los servicios de la tecnología asistencial para incrementar conocimiento y facilitar la participación en actividades de la vida. Los objetivos de WATR son incrementar la adquisición de información de tecnología asistencial y acceso a aparatos de tecnología asistencial para individuos, familia, profesionales y cuidadores. WATR específicamente se fija en las áreas de la educación, el empleo, la vida comunitaria, y IT/comunicación.

### **¿QUÉ ES LA TECNOLOGÍA ASISTENCIAL?**

La tecnología asistencial puede ser cualquier cosa, comprada o hecha a mano, que ayuda a incrementar las capacidades funcionales e independencia de las personas que enfrentan limitaciones en cualquier área de la vida.

### **SOBRE EL WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES**

La misión del Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) es ayudar a los individuos con discapacidades de desarrollo y otras discapacidades y a sus familias con promulgar y apoyar la inclusión completa en la comunidad, la pertenencia a la comunidad, independencia, productividad y participación social. WIND proporciona actividades de intervención de primera fase, entrenamiento y ayuda

tecnológica a los profesionales, la investigación de temas de discapacidades, y es el sitio del programa estatal de tecnología asistencial y el sitio del Accessible Instructional Materials Coordinating Center. Los programas funcionan cooperativamente para asegurar que los individuos con discapacidades reciban servicios y apoyos apropiados.

### **CENTRO PARA PRÉSTAMOS DE APARATOS**

Nuestro centro para préstamos de aparatos ofrece una gran variedad de tecnología asistencial a los individuos de Wyoming que tienen interés en prestar un aparato para probarlo. Los plazos de préstamo duran seis semanas y ofrecen una oportunidad para usar los aparatos para tomar una decisión educada en referencia a futuras compras de tecnología asistencial. Si quisiera prestar un aparato, llame a nuestro centro, o busque en línea en [www.wy.at4all.com](http://www.wy.at4all.com).

### **CENTRO DE DEMONSTRACIÓN DE LOS APARATOS**

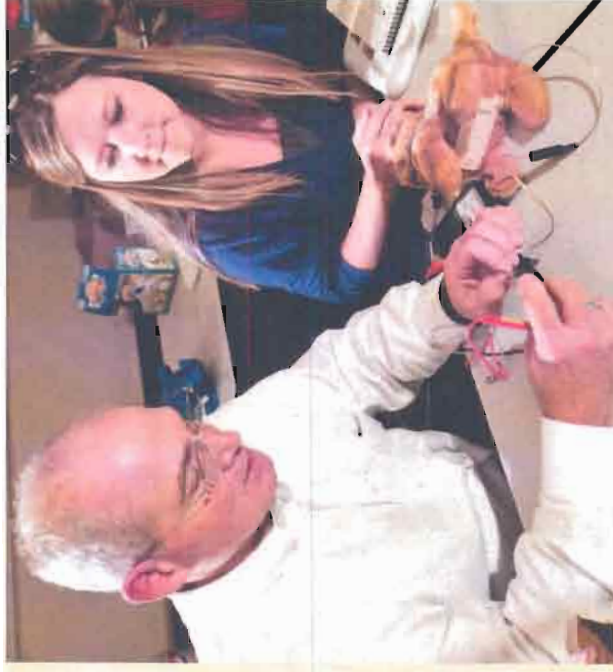
Estamos ubicados en el campus de la University of Wyoming en el edificio de Health Sciences, sala 151, y damos la bienvenida a sus peticiones para demostraciones a individuos y grupos. El personal de WATR también dará demostraciones adaptadas a sus necesidades.

### **PROGRAMA DE LA REUTILIZACIÓN DE APARATOS**

WATR colabora con otros programas del estado para exhibir aparatos disponibles que son gratis o para compra. A [www.wy.at4all.com](http://www.wy.at4all.com), usted puede comprar, vender, o donar tecnología asistencial por el internet. Este servicio en línea expande nuestra dedicación a promulgar el acceso y la adquisición de tecnología asistencial en todo el estado.

### **ENTRENAMIENTO Y ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA**

Para mejorar el conocimiento, las habilidades y las competencias con referencia a la tecnología asistencial, proporcionamos entrenamiento para individuos con discapacidades, familias, cuidadores y profesionales. Asistencia técnica se enfoca



en proporcionar servicios directos de resolución de problemas para ayudar a las agencias estatales o locales o entidades con el mejoramiento de servicios, administración, política y/o resultados. Nosotros podemos proporcionar información general de entrenamientos de aparatos específicos para sus necesidades. Nuestro personal también son disponibles para apoyar esfuerzos locales para identificar e implementar las mejores prácticas en el campo de tecnología asistencial.

## AAC CONSULTATIONS AND AT ASSESSMENTS

AT consultations and assessments are conducted on a contractual, fee-for-service basis. AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) consultations are tailored to meet the specific needs of each client and result in a written report containing suggestions for AAC interventions. Comprehensive assistive technology assessments are much more prescriptive and extensive, and include a thorough review of records; meetings with teachers or employers; the individual and families to determine specific goals for which assistive technology would be warranted; multiple visits to the requesting site to assist with implementing the recommendations; and measurement of outcomes to ensure that the interventions are meeting the individual's needs.



## PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness activities of AT and disabilities are designed to reach large numbers of people across Wyoming. Look for upcoming Demo Days events, sign up to receive our electronic bulletins and newsletters, and visit our informational booth at conferences and events.

## WYOMING TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM (WYTAP)

WYTAP is a financial loan program that offers interest buy-down for individuals who want to purchase assistive technology. Extended loan periods (up to 70 months) make it possible for people to buy the assistive technology they need through little-to-no-interest loans, thereby making payments more affordable.

## PROJECT MEMBERS

Sandy KookBledge  
Associate Director, WIND  
Director, WATR  
sre@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-2764

Kathy McWhorter, Ed.S., AT Professional  
Program Specialist  
kmcwhor1@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5770

Barbara Locke, B.S.  
AT Professional  
blocks@uwyo.edu  
(307) 349-5547

Mary Eck Moniehl, M.A.  
AT Specialist  
mmoniehl@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-6187

Alyssa Newcomb, B.S.W.  
AT Specialist  
anewcomb@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5003

Giselle Knopf  
Project Assistant  
gknopf@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-5031

Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Consultant, Speech, Language Pathology

Renee Gray, OTR/L  
Consultant, Occupational Therapy

Carla Withlis, OTD, OTR/L  
Consultant, Occupational Therapy



E-mail: [watr@uwyo.edu](mailto:watr@uwyo.edu)  
Phone: (307) 766-6187  
TTY: (307) 766-2720  
Toll-free: 1-888-989-WIND (9463)  
Fax: (307) 766-2763  
[www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr](http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr)  
[www.wy.aidall.com](http://www.wy.aidall.com)



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING HEALTH SCIENCES

The content of this brochure was developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education or the University of Wyoming, nor does it constitute an endorsement by the federal government.

2011/04/06



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES



WIND Assistive  
Technology Resources





#### ABOUT WIND, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (WATR)

Initiated in October 2005, WATR is Wyoming's Assistive Technology Act program. WATR is dedicated to providing best practices and research-based, high quality information about assistive technology devices and services. WATR's goals are to increase acquisition of information about assistive technology and to increase access to assistive technology devices. WATR specifically targets the areas of education, employment, community living, and IT/telecommunication for individuals, families, professionals, and caregivers.

#### WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive technology (AT) can be anything, bought or made, that helps to increase the functional capabilities and independence of people who face limitations in a given area of their lives.

#### ABOUT THE WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES (WIND)

The mission of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is to assist individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families by promoting and supporting full community inclusion, community membership, independence, productivity and social participation. WIND provides early intervention activities, training and technical assistance to professionals, and research on disability issues. WIND is home to the state assistive technology program and to the Accessible Instructional Materials Coordinating Center.

Programs work collaboratively to help ensure that individuals with disabilities receive appropriate services and supports.

#### DEVICE LOAN CENTER

Our Device Loan Center allows Wyoming individuals and groups to make informed choices about an AT device prior to acquiring it. Loan periods last six weeks and offer an opportunity to trial devices or use a borrowed device when an individual's need service.

#### DEVICE DEMONSTRATION CENTER

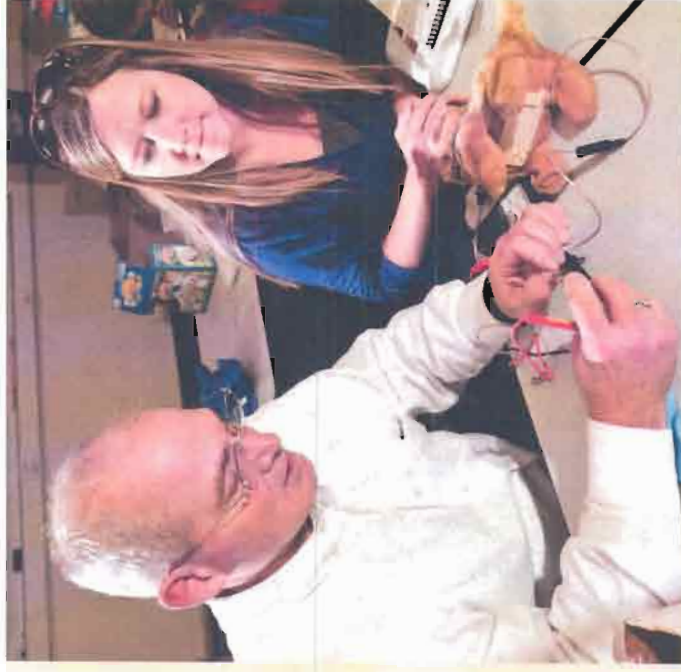
Device demonstrations allow individuals and groups to make a determination about whether or not assistive technology will meet an individual's needs. We are located at the College of Health Sciences Building 151, on the University of Wyoming campus, and welcome your requests for group or individual demonstrations. WATR staff will also provide onsite demonstrations that are customized to your needs.

#### DEVICE REUTILIZATION PROGRAM

AT reutilization involves transferring a device from someone who no longer needs it to someone who does. WATR collaborates with other state programs to showcase devices available for free or purchase. At [www.wy.atdall.com](http://www.wy.atdall.com), you can purchase, sell, or donate assistive technology via the web. This online service expands our commitment to promoting statewide AT access and acquisition.

#### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

To enhance knowledge, skills and competencies regarding AT, we provide training for individuals with disabilities, family members, caregivers and professionals. Technical assistance is focused on providing direct problem-solving service to assist state or local agencies or entities in improving their services, management,



policies and/or outcomes. We can provide general information about device-specific training to meet your needs. For quick questions, staff members are available online through the WATR Chat window on the WATR website.

## Wyoming Institute for Disabilities NIMAS/AIM

### NIMAS Clearinghouse for Accessible Media and Technologies

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is committed to the provision of services for and with individuals with disabilities, their families and communities. With support from the Wyoming Department of Education, Special Programs Division and WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) the NIMAS Clearinghouse has been established at WIND to support blind and other students with print disabilities through the provision of accessible textbooks and core curriculum materials.

Eligibility for services is coordinated through the Special Programs Division of the Department of Education and requires medical documentation that supports a print disability. For information regarding eligibility, contact Leslie Bechtel Van Orman in Riverton, Wyoming (307) 857-9267 or send E-mail to [Ivanor@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:Ivanor@educ.state.wy.us).

Our goal in seeking and providing alternate format textbooks and curriculum resources is to assist individual school districts in meeting the unique learning needs of every student. Among the options available to students are braille, large print, DAISY books, audio files, and e-text files. Within our intent to identify or process alternate format resources is the promise to use all reasonable means to deliver the accessible textbook to the student at the same time as the other students receive their materials.

For further information about the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, the NIMAS Clearinghouse, or to schedule a NIMAS presentation in your area, please feel free to contact us. We welcome your questions and input.

### Contact Information

#### National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)

#### Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities  
Wyoming Accessibility Center  
University of Wyoming  
Dept 4298, 1000 E University Avenue Laramie, WY 82071

Phone: 1-800-861-4312 or (307) 766-5770

Fax: (307) 766-2763

E-mail: [NIMAS@uwyo.edu](mailto:NIMAS@uwyo.edu)



National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials

## AIM Chat

Have question? Chat us! Please leave your contact information if we are offline.

