



WisTech Data and Narratives (Federal Fiscal Year 2024)

The following data and narratives are a summary from the Annual Progress Report submitted for the time period from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

WisTech Program Outcomes Federal Fiscal Year 2024	WisTech Service Description
19 Individuals served	Low interest loans to purchase assistive technology (AT) or make home modifications through WisLoan
5,475 Individuals served	Free equipment made available through reuse and telecommunication program funding programs.
\$2,999,302.00	Dollar value of reuse and telecommunications devices provided to Wisconsinites (cost-savings)
1138 Individuals served	Device loans to assist with decision making or serve as a short-term accommodation while awaiting funding or a device repair.
1696 AT devices	AT devices loaned out to people with disabilities, various service providers, and family members
61 Demonstrations and 1,002 Individuals served	Device demonstrations provided for individuals to decide what AT product will meet their individual needs.
5,128 Individuals served	Training on AT devices, services, funding resources, and accessibility.
29,779 Individuals served	Information and assistance provided to increase knowledge about AT devices, services, and funding.



WisTech Stories

WisLoan (Alternative Financing)

Direct consumer testimonial: "I'd like to thank you and all the board members involved with the WisLoan process. This vehicle will open doors that have been closed on me for far too long. The attached photo was from delivery day. Thanks again for your help, faith and works that you do!"

Device Reuse

Independent Living Resources (ILR), a WisTech partner, received an information and assistance request from a local, senior living complex. The residential facility had a fire which displaced multiple residents. Many of the residents had to evacuate quickly and left behind their durable medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, and bath benches. ILR was able to provide used devices to these individuals through the WisTech reuse inventory.

Device Loan

The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin (CILWW), as WisTech partner, was collaborating with the Children's Long-Term Support Program (CLTS) program to assist a family with a child with autism on daily living activities. The child needed assistance in the areas of hygiene, executive functioning, dressing, cooking, and communication. The family was able to borrow several pieces of assistive technology such as a communication book, a talking switch device, and a task timer from the short-term loan inventory. Following the loan, the family shared that there were significant improvements with communication and their child was able to communicate and express themselves more clearly. The CLTS program was able to provide the funding needed to purchase the assistive technology devices this child needed to communicate and function more independently in their home.

Device Demonstration

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) referred an individual who has learning and speech disabilities to WisTech to identify assistive technology that would allow the person to complete the training needed to obtain their CDL license. This person met with staff for a demonstration of a C-Pen and the OrCam reader. They decided that these devices would meet their needs and DVR was able to provide the funding to purchase these devices. The person was able to complete the CDL training course and obtain their CDL license.

Training

- WisTech and staff from the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have provided several trainings for the ADA Coordinators within the Department of Corrections to increase awareness of AT resources and services available to the individuals within their facilities. Trainings included general information on



assistive technology resources as well as topics specific to technology to accommodate for hearing loss within the facilities. These trainings have led to increased requests for information as well as device loans from the WisTech inventory, including iPads and caption tablets for communication access for those with communication barriers.

- Society's Assets, a WisTech partner hosted four cooking classes for youth with disabilities at a local commercial kitchen space. The participants were students who have a vision loss and the classes allowed for a hands-on demonstration of a variety of assistive technology devices. Students had the opportunity to try out devices such as tactile measuring spoons or cups, peelers, knives, timers, liquid level indicators, induction cooktops, large print materials, smart devices, and various apps. The students learned how to read recipes, learn food safety skills, and prepare meals such as sandwiches, pancakes or scrambled eggs, tacos, and sorbet.
- WisTech conducted two ICT trainings for the staff of the Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health to address inaccessibility in documents and the dissemination of information. Staff had the choice of two sessions which were done on the Zoom platform. Representation from numerous Bureaus and Offices participated. These training resulted in more accessible practices by staff and generated multiple follow up questions on program specific topics.

Technical Assistance

WisTech has been providing extensive ICT training and technical assistance to a broad group of stakeholders including Wisconsin Emergency Management, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, Department of Workforce Development, Department of Transportation, Public Service Commission, Employee Trust Fund, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Office of Inspector General, Wisconsin Department of Health Service Secretary's Office, Bureau of Information Technology, and the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care. This work included working on emergency response plans to provide assistive technology and improve response to people with disabilities, improved digital access to state insurance programs and materials, ensuring plans being placed on websites were digitally accessible, testing of software to ensure accessibility, making videos on guardianship and related training accessible, and improving access and communication options for people with disabilities at emergency shelters. This work has led to innovative partnerships and collaborations. Specifically, the Division of Public Health is incorporating accessible documents training into new employee training and partners are reaching out to WisTech on how to implement 504 and Title II, American with Disabilities Act regulation changes. WisTech is hopefully by continuing to provide ICT training and technical assistance that state programs and services will be more accessible for all people in the state of Wisconsin.



Information and Assistance

Sources for information and assistance data are collected from:

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- ALS Association
- Department of Health Services staff (WisTech and Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- Independent Living Centers
- WisLoan program