

# Wisconsin Telework Loan Program

## What is Telework?

The Wisconsin Telework Program is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a telework center.

## What can I purchase with a Telework loan?

Loan funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Computers, printers and software
- Scanners, fax and office machines
- Tools and equipment
- Telecommunication devices
- Office furniture
- Home modifications to create accessible home office
- Assistive technology that enables an individual with a disability to work at home

## Are there conditions for approval of Telework loans?

A telework loan is generally considered favorable if the equipment purchased with the loan assists you in doing at least one of the following:

- Begin telework for an employer when you were previously unemployed
- Increase income in an existing job through telework
- Remain employed at your current level, and prevent job loss or a reduction in earnings, through telework
- Begin working at home to accommodate your disability
- Initiate or expand home based self-employment with an approved business plan

## How much can I borrow and at what interest rate and terms?

You can apply for the amount you need, but actual loan amounts will depend on the item purchased and your ability to repay the loan. The interest rate is 2% points above prime. For example, if the prime rate is 4.75%, the interest rate for a Telework loan would be 6.75%. Term lengths depend on the amount of the loan and the item purchased.

## What if my credit is bad?

If you have bad credit, including bankruptcy, your application is still considered. The focus is on your ability to make the monthly payments to pay back the loan.

## How do I apply?

Staff at the Independent Living Centers throughout Wisconsin can answer your questions and take applications. For more information contact Linda Vogelmann at Society's Assets, Inc., 1-262-637-9128 V/TTY or 1-800-378-9128 toll free.

The program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration and authorized by section 303(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and implemented by subsequent program regulation 34 CFR Part 373. The Department of Workforce Development – Division of Rehabilitation received the grant and provides programmatic and fiscal oversight. IndependenceFirst, a community based and consumer controlled Independent Living Center based in Milwaukee, administers the program in partnership with M & I Marshall & Ilsley Bank and seven Independent Living Centers.