

Chart 1  
USA Funds' Wyoming Loan Volume  
by Loan Type

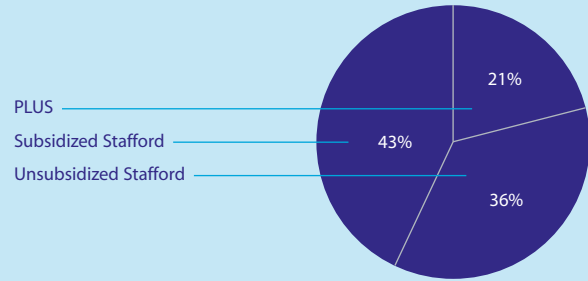
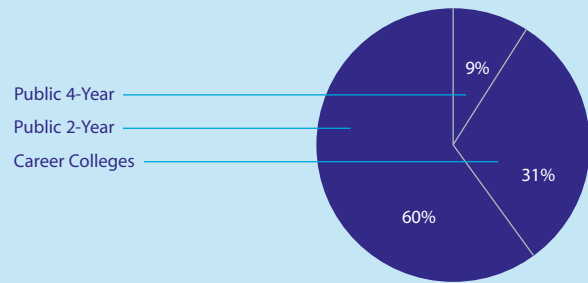


Chart 2  
USA Funds' Wyoming Loan Volume  
by Institution Type



USA Funds® is the nation's leading education-loan guarantor. A nonprofit corporation, USA Funds works to enhance postsecondary-education preparedness, access and success by providing and supporting financial and other valued services.



**USA Funds® has served Wyoming as its designated guarantor of federal education loans since 1991. As Wyoming's designated guarantor, USA Funds links colleges, universities, career colleges, private lenders, students and parents to promote financial access to college. USA Funds supports critical education-loan services, including loan-application processing, customer assistance and default prevention and recovery, as well as policy guidance and training of school and lender staff.**

During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2006, USA Funds guaranteed nearly \$14 million in new education loans to nearly 3,300 Wyoming borrowers — including Federal Stafford loans for 2,853 students and Federal PLUS loans for 430 parents and students. USA Funds served nine postsecondary institutions in Wyoming.

USA Funds works with Wyoming schools and lenders to help reduce student-loan default rates. The most-recent default measure, the 2004 cohort-default rate, was 4.5 percent for Wyoming borrowers with USA Funds-guaranteed loans, compared with the default rate of 4.9 percent recorded among all Wyoming student-loan borrowers. The cohort-default rate measures the percentage of students who entered repayment on their education loans during a given federal fiscal year and defaulted on their loans prior to the end of the following fiscal year.



### **Debt-management initiatives**

To partner with postsecondary institutions in their debt-management efforts, USA Funds in 2006 provided a broad spectrum of services in Wyoming, including the following:

- ◇ USA Funds’ debt-management consultants assisted nine Wyoming schools in their work to curb student-loan defaults.
- ◇ To equip postsecondary institutions to teach their students to manage their time and money wisely while they are on campus and after graduation, USA Funds offers the USA Funds Life Skills® financial-literacy course. The number of schools in various stages of implementing USA Funds Life Skills in Wyoming stands at six.
- ◇ Three schools in Wyoming use USA Funds-provided tools that help students and graduates stay on the path to successful repayment. The Web-based USA Funds Debt Manager® assists with e-mail, call or letter campaigns to borrowers experiencing repayment difficulties.
- ◇ USA Funds offers a new online tool, USA Funds Stafford Loan Guide<sup>SM</sup>, that schools can customize to automate the entrance-counseling process and provide Stafford-loan borrowers with memorable guidance.
- ◇ To give schools greater flexibility as they help students track their education loans, USA Funds supports the Borrower Debt Management Information Service. Schools often use the service during student-loan exit counseling with borrowers.

USA Funds also supports a variety of other programs for Wyoming schools, lenders, students and families — and their communities — to enhance preparation for, access to and success in higher education. The following are some highlights from 2006:

### **Wyoming advisory council**

To ensure that its services meet the needs of postsecondary education in Wyoming, USA Funds hosts regular meetings of its Wyoming financial-aid advisory council, which includes financial-aid administrators for Wyoming colleges and universities, as well as representatives of lending institutions.

### **Staff-training opportunities**

USA Funds helps colleges and lenders comply with program regulations and keeps them informed of policy developments and improved services through a wide array of training opportunities, including free workshops in Wyoming. During fiscal 2006 USA Funds conducted two financial-aid workshops, in Casper and Cheyenne, for 32 participants.

### **Scholarship funding**

The USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships® program awarded 54 new and renewal scholarships totaling \$81,000 to deserving college-bound students in Wyoming for the 2006-2007 academic year. These scholarships assist students in financial need — particularly those who are either members of ethnic-minority groups or are physically disabled — as they finance their higher education.

Under the USA Funds Scholars program, USA Funds awarded \$19,500 in scholarships to graduating seniors from nine Wyoming high schools. USA Funds Scholars are outstanding students in USA Funds’ designated states and in communities in which USA Funds has offices.

### **Early awareness program**

USA Funds offers at no cost to Wyoming schools and community- and faith-based organizations its USA Funds Unlock the Future® early awareness program. Six Wyoming schools and organizations took advantage of the program, which introduces students and their families to the benefits of and options for education after high school.

### **College Goal Sunday**

USA Funds supports College Goal Sunday in Wyoming. College Goal Sunday provides high-school seniors and their parents free help in completing the application necessary to qualify for federal grants and loans for college. More than 600 Wyoming students and parents received assistance at 10 College Goal Sunday sites in Wyoming during 2006. USA Funds also sponsored the third-annual “USA Funds Countdown to College™” supplement to the *Casper Star-Tribune* and *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*. USA Funds partnered with Western States Learning Corp. on the publication, which promotes College Goal Sunday and provides higher-education admissions and financial-aid information.

### **College-planning Web site**

USA Funds partners with College Answer®, the foremost online resource for “going-to-college” information, to provide college-planning information for Wyoming residents at [www.wyoming.collegeanswer.com](http://www.wyoming.collegeanswer.com).

### **Learning Communities**

USA Funds continued its work with a coalition of organizations that are focusing services on six pilot communities — including Wind River Reservation in Wyoming — in a bid to improve access to postsecondary education for low-income students. The Learning Communities Coalition is partnering with local leaders across the nation to significantly increase the number of youths in the selected communities who complete high school and successfully pursue postsecondary education. Among the Learning Communities projects that USA Funds supported in 2006 was training through ScholarShop, a curriculum and resource center designed to motivate and prepare students for higher education.

### **Latino-education symposium**

A USA Funds grant to LaRadio/KOCA in Laramie supported the Latino Education in Frontier Settings Symposium. The event focused on establishing a common understanding about education issues affecting Wyoming’s Latino population.

### **Table 1 Wyoming Schools Served by USA Funds**

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Wyoming Technical Institute  
Laramie County Community College  
Sheridan College  
Western Wyoming College  
Central Wyoming College  
University of Wyoming  
Eastern Wyoming College  
Casper College  
Northwest Community College

### **Table 2 10 Largest Lenders By Loan Volume Served by USA Funds in Wyoming**

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Wyoming Student Loan Corp.  
U.S. Bank  
J.P. Morgan Chase  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Sallie Mae Education Trust  
Citibank Student Loans  
Nelnet  
Bank of America  
Student Loan Xpress  
KeyBank