

Inventory of Capacity Building Programs in the Rocky Mountain West and South West Regions

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Background

“Collaborative conservation invites diverse and inclusive groups of stakeholders to solve sustainability problems through collective learning and action” (Center for Collaborative Conservation).

The CCC creates collaborative conservation solutions by:

- training future collaborative conservationists through university coursework
- supporting collaborative conservation practitioners in developing skills
- investigating how and why collaboration succeeds or fails in achieving desired outcomes

“The WCCN promotes and supports community-based collaborative conservation efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies.” (Western Collaborative Conservation Network)

Project Focus

Objectives:

Investigate and evaluate capacity building programs that provide training to strengthen the organizational effectiveness of collaborative conservation groups within the United States.

Methods

Collaborative conservation organizational capacity building programs project:

- Take a comprehensive inventory of programs
- Create an excel database of programs
- Analyze and summarize these findings to discover current capacity and future needs



Next Steps

- The Western Collaborative Conservation Network will use the inventory and summary report created to:
- Promote existing organizational capacity building programs and connect practitioners and future leaders to these programs, and
- Determine where gaps exist and how to collaborate with others to fill needs

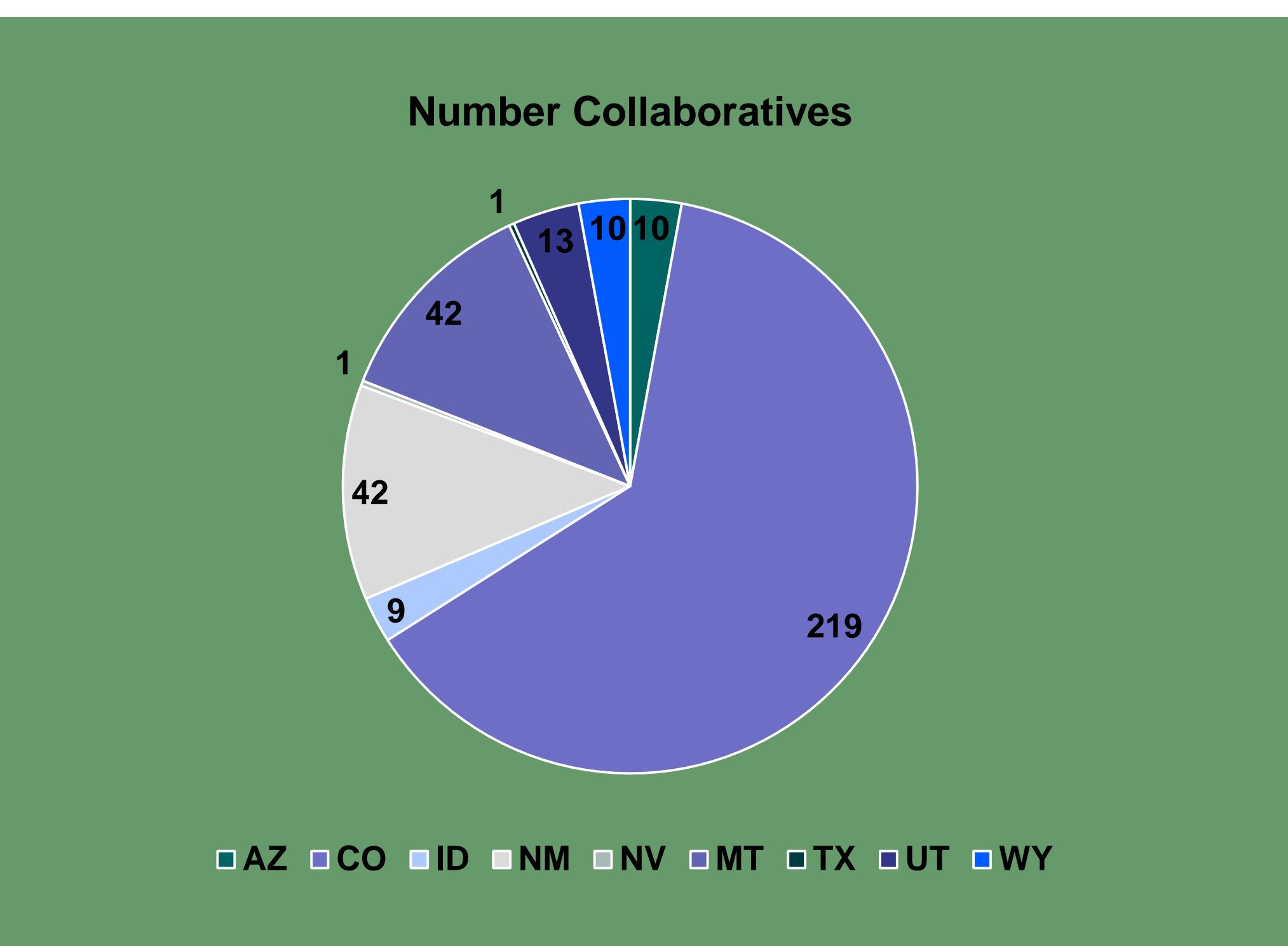
Selected References

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Reid, R. S., Scharf, V. L., Huayhuasca, C., Lynn, S., Loyd, K., & Jandreau, C. Collaborative conservation in practice: Current state and future directions.

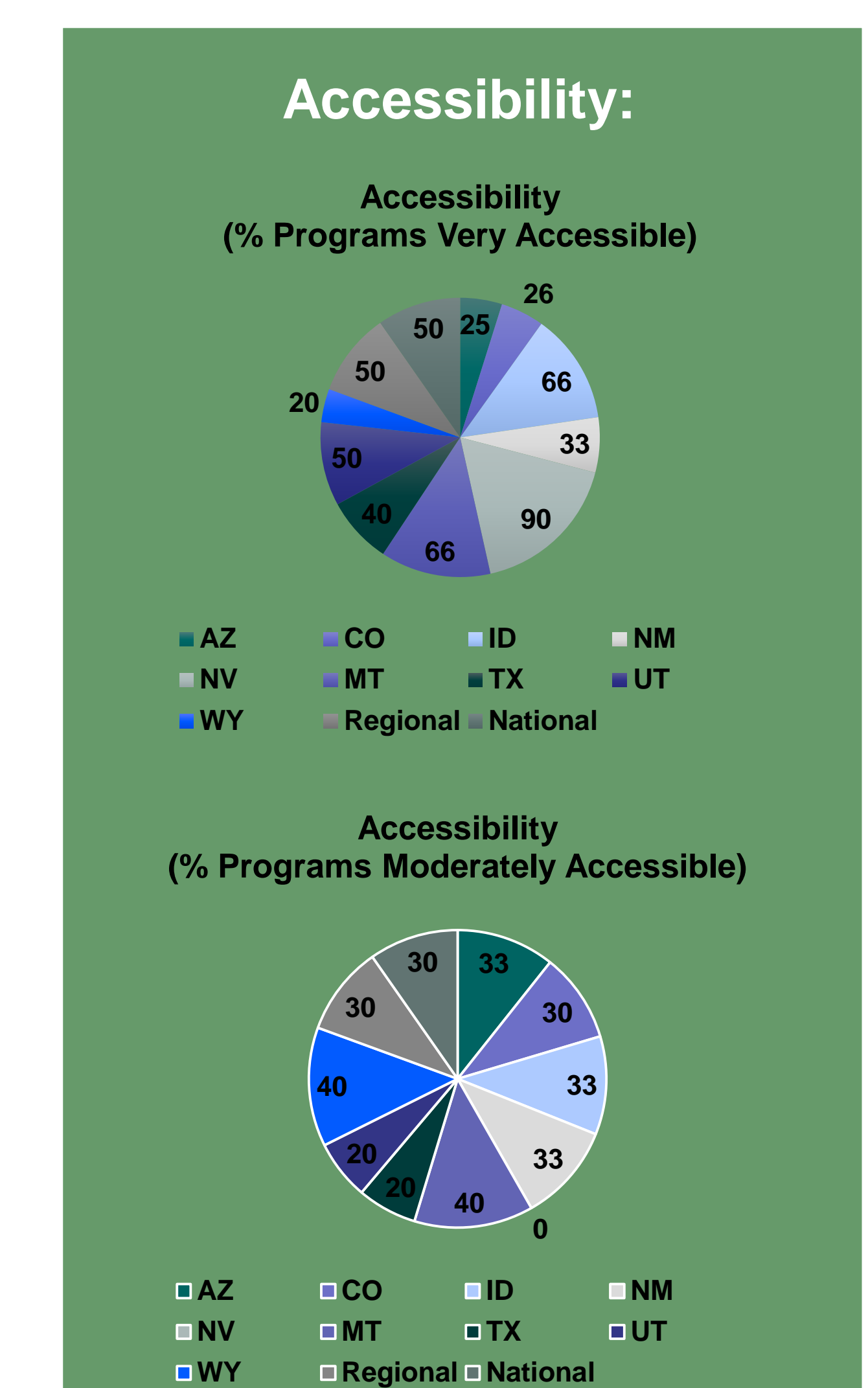
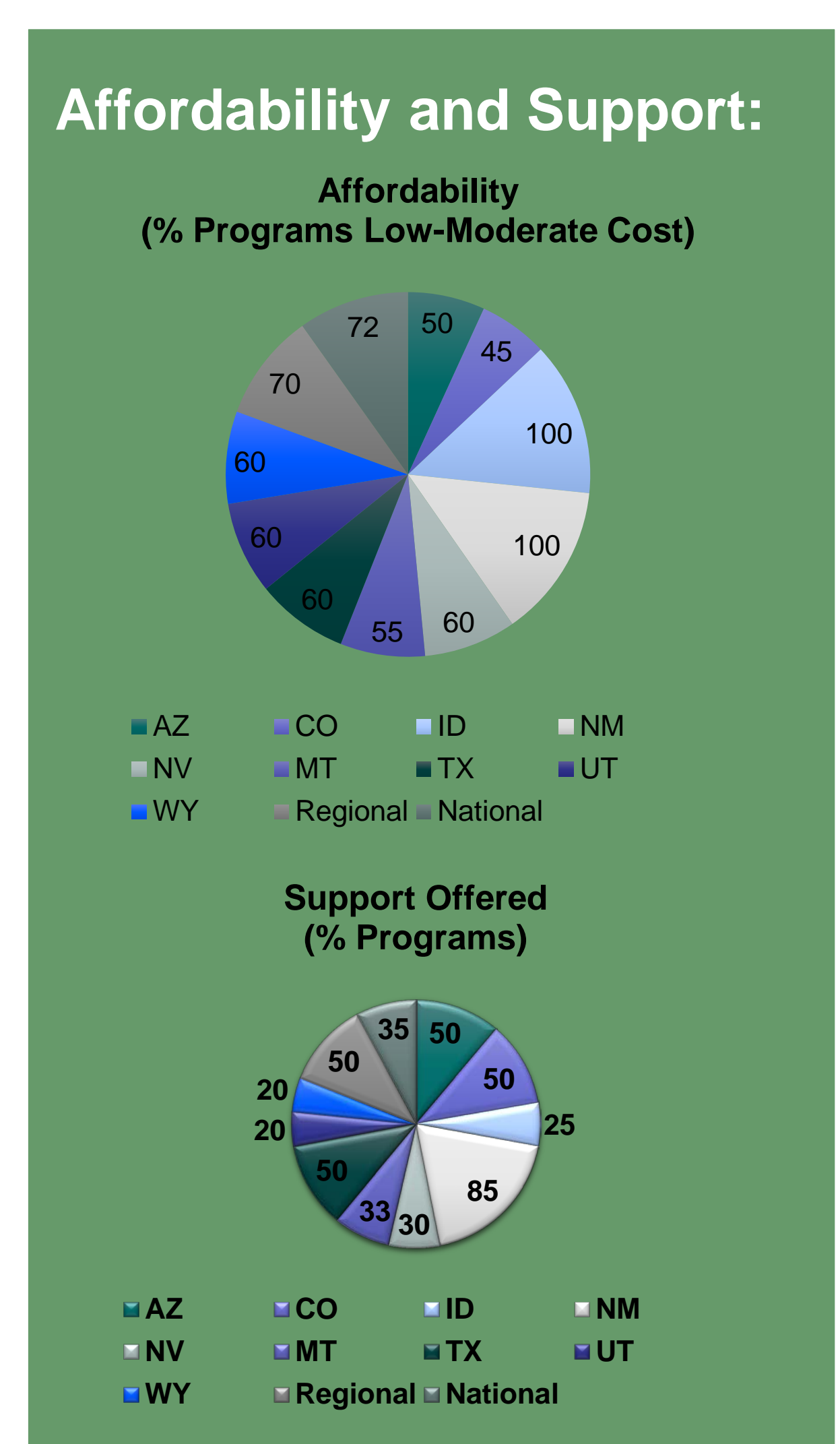
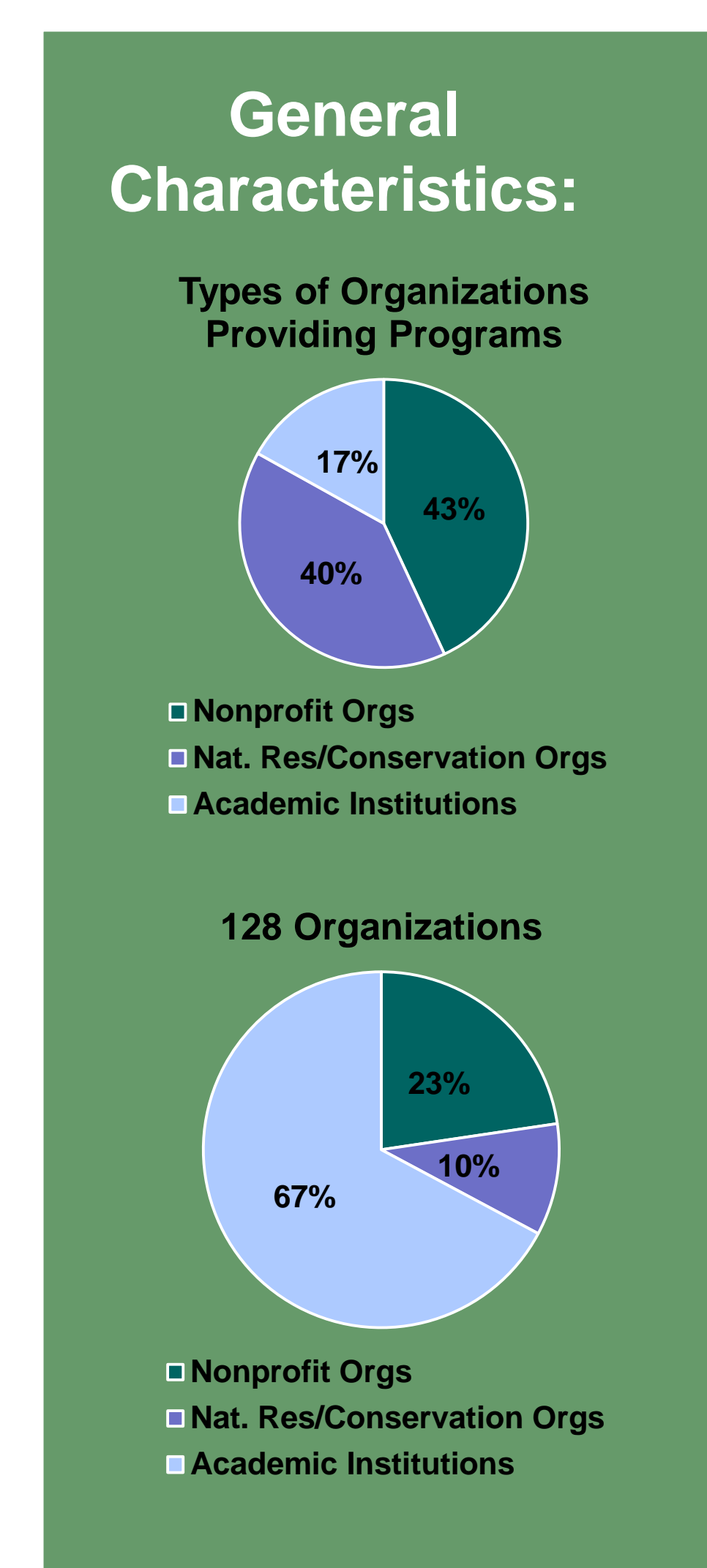
Findings and Discussion Organizational Capacity Building Programs

Collaboratives



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Trends:

- Basic program information is widely and easily available
- Most programs offered at the state level
- Largest number of programs offered by CO or nationally
- Moderate number of programs offered by AZ, NM, MT and regionally
- Five states offer fewer programs (ID, NV, UT, TX and WY)
- 45-90% of programs are highly affordable: low to moderate cost
- 20-90% of programs are very accessible: offered online, frequently available, and with open eligibility
- Financial support is offered for all programs but level of support varies from 20% to 90%

Needs & Questions:

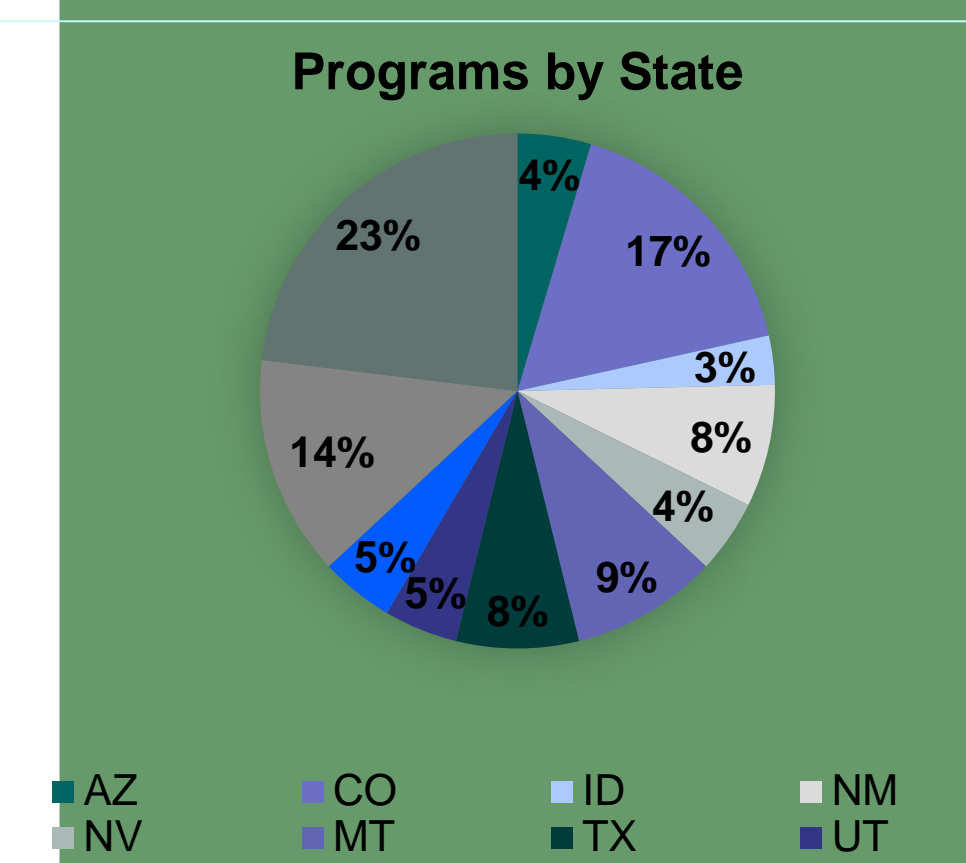
- Increased funding support, affordability and increased accessibility
- Skills gaps include: communications, human resources management, DEI, collaborative planning & adaptive management, program management, grant seeking/writing, mentoring
- Do the number of programs meet the need?
- Do collaborative groups utilize these existing programs, especially programs provided by nonprofit organizations?

Data Gaps:

- Many programs in the inventory lack information tools, program funding sources and partners and evaluation

Limitations of study:

- Given the scope and duration of the project, many more programs could likely be discovered through additional inquiry
- Completeness of each program in the inventory was largely limited by publicly available online data.



Most Frequently Offered Skills

- Communications
- Leadership development
- Board governance and development
- Strategic planning
- Partnership and relationship building
- Conflict resolution
- Facilitation
- Organizational and operational management
- Fundraising and financial management

Most Frequently Offered Tools

- COVID recovery
- Nonprofit development
- Organizational evaluation and assessment
- Fundraising and financial management
- Facilitation