



Home Modification Assistance – SF 2070

Position: The National MS Society supports the creation of an infrastructure program to help low income Iowans living with a disability caused by age, chronic disease (such as MS), or injury to modify their homes to increase accessibility, safety, and to remain independent.

Independence vs. Unsafe Living Conditions

For seniors and those living with a disability, the condition and functionality of a residence can mean the difference between continuing to live at home and leaving it for long-term care.

Falling in one's home is one of the leading causes of visits to an emergency room or hospitalization for these Iowans. Falls are physically and emotionally traumatic and can result in death.

In order to remain safely in a home, modifications such as ramps, lifts, grab bars, or hallway and room remodels are sometimes a necessity.

Cost of Home Modifications

However home modifications can be expensive. Homeowners wanting to remodel a home to accommodate a disability could spend nearly \$9,000 on average and upwards of more than \$50,000 for major modifications.

Benefits of Home Modification Assistance

Continuing to live in one's home promotes emotional wellbeing, independence, and maintaining a connection to the community and employment.

It is also more cost effective compared to institutional care. Using an average of the current cost of long-term care in Iowa, by keeping just 15 to 24 people in their home and out of assisted living or nursing homes for a year avoids a cost of \$1 million

Program Proposal

- Program would allow Iowan residents to receive grants up to \$5,000 to help with the costs of modifying their homes.
- Recipients must be an Iowa homeowner living under the average median income in Iowa and over the age of 65 or living with a disability.
- Requesting \$600,000 to the the Iowa Finance Authority to create and administer the program.

What is multiple sclerosis?

- Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.
- MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.
- Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.



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