

Iowa Home Modification Assistance Program

Supporting Safe and Independent Living

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



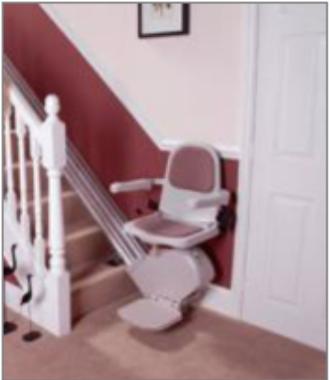
Independence vs. Unsafe Living Condition

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



Home Modification Cost

In order to remain safely in a home, modifications such as ramps, lifts, grab bars, or hallway and room remodels are sometimes a necessity. 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. It is also more cost effective compared to institutional care. By keeping 15-24 people in their home and out of assisted living or nursing homes for a year avoids a cost of over \$1 million annually.

Home Modification Assistance Program Proposal

To help offset these costs, we support the creation of a program to provide grants for eligible individuals or dependents to modify an existing home to increase accessibility and safety. Grants up to \$5,000 would be available for Iowans with an income under 450% of the federal poverty guidelines (approximately \$52,000) and living with a disability or be over the age of 65.



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