



FREED: Using Best Practices to Increase Accessibility for Housing Stability

Disability and Aging Network Partnerships for Assistive Technology, Home Modifications, and Repair Programs

[FREED Center for Independent Living](#), a disability and aging resource center providing services in northern California, has multiple programs that increase housing stability for older adults and people with disabilities. Many of FREED's home modification and repair services are offered in collaboration with other agencies in the area. FREED and its partners collaborate on intake, assessments, referrals, service delivery, and funding of services. These partnerships started more than 20 years ago when FREED began receiving Older Americans Act (OAA) funding through a local area agency on aging to expand its [Fix It Program](#). Today, FREED serves more than 2,300 people a year. It continues its external partnerships and implements multiple programs that work together to provide comprehensive services to people with disabilities and older adults living in the community.

Programs and Services

- The **Fix It Program** provides health and safety-related minor home modifications and repairs that support people aged 60 and above so they can live in their own homes safely or transition from institutional settings to community living. Examples of services include installing grab bars and handrails, repairing leaky faucets, support in building ramps, and minor entryway repairs. Services are provided by volunteers and through collaboration with other agencies.
 - The **AT Program** coordinates the donation and reuse of assistive devices through its Device Lending and Demonstration Center.
 - The **Transition Services Program** meets with consumers at skilled nursing facilities prior to discharge and connects them to services including Fix It and AT.
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- The **Aging and Disability Resource Connection** provides referrals to community resources and outside agencies when needed repairs and modifications fall outside the scope of FREED’s Fix It services.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Through two decades of working closely with partners to support housing stability, FREED has identified the following three best practices.

- Identify organizations in your community that have similar goals and serve similar populations. Building partnerships with these organizations could help your program more effectively address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
- Explore the various funding sources that may be available. In addition to OAA Title III-B funding, FREED uses funding from the Money Follows the Person Program, city/county housing and community development departments (e.g., Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program block grants), and local general funds.
- Be persistent. After three years of applying, FREED obtained new county CDBG funding for major home modifications in Nevada County.

Funding Sources

| Funding Source | Federal | State/Local |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| OAA Title III-B | X | |
| Older Adults Recovery and Resilience Funding – Dignity at Home | X | |
| County CDBG | X | |
| California Department of Rehabilitation | | X |
| California Money Follows the Person – California Community Transitions | | X |
| County general funds | | X |

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