



Housing and Services
Resource Center

**Partnerships to Increase Housing
Stability Through Assistive Technology,
Home Modifications, & Repairs**

August 7, 2023
Webinar

Welcome



Housing and Services
Resource Center

Webinar is hosted by the
Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC)

Facilitator

Lori Gerhard, Director, Office for Interagency Innovations
Administration for Community Living (ACL)

This event is being recorded.

Instructions for Zoom

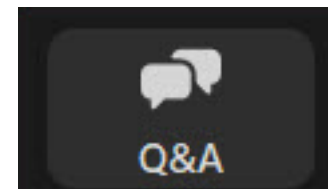
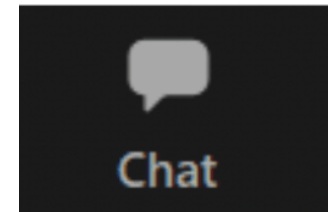
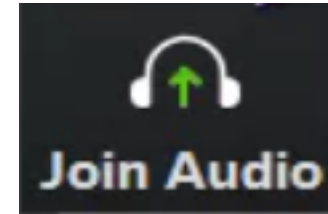
Audio Options

- Use your computer speakers, **OR** dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
- All participants are muted.

Questions and Comments

- Please actively use chat throughout the meeting, especially for your comments.
- To ask a presenter a question, please use the Q&A function.

Or, send your question or comment via email to HSRC@ACL.HHS.GOV



Accessibility

Maximizing view of ASL interpreters

- Enlarge view of ASL interpreter by “pinning” them:
Click on their video window and select the Pin icon.

Screen Reader Users: Reduce unwanted chatter

- Request speech on demand:
Insert, Spacebar, “S”

Poll: Current Involvement in Accessibility

Does your agency offer home modification, repair, or assistive technology (AT) assistance?

- Offer direct assistance.
- Partner/contract with agency that provides assistance.
- Refer to agency that provides assistance.
- Provide education only.
- We do not offer modification, repair, or AT assistance.



Housing and Services Resource Center

acl.gov/HousingAndServices [#HousingResources](https://twitter.com/HousingResources)



Agenda

- Welcome and housekeeping
- Importance of home accessibility
- State assistive technology (AT) program services
- HUD home modification funding
- USDA home modification and repair loans and grants
- Featured programs:
 - FREED Center for Independent Living
 - Nebraska AT Partnership
- Q & A
- Closing

Poll Results

Chat:

Describe the partnership between your agency and your local AT, home mods, or home repair program(s).

Lack of Accessible Housing

- 23.1 Million — American households with accessibility needs.
- 40% — American households in which a person lives in a home that does not have the accessibility features they need to live safely and successfully in the community.
- In 47% of homes, climbing up or down stairs to enter the home is **required**.
 - Just 14% of households that include persons with accessibility needs reported having a ramp or lift of some type.

SP Group LLC. (2021, March). *Accessibility in Housing: Findings from the 2019 American Housing Survey*. [Online complete report]. Retrieved from HUD PD&R website: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/Accessibility-in-Housing-Report.html>


Accessibility Solutions

- Assistive Technology
- Home Modifications
- Home Repairs

What is the State Assistive Technology Act Program?

- Administered by the Administration for Community Living
- Authorized under the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act or the AT Act of 1998, as Amended
- Available in all 56 States and Territories (mandatory/formula grant awards)
- Serves people of all ages and disabilities (temporary or permanent) to
 - Become aware of and how to access assistive technology devices and services
 - Learn about assistive technology and accessibility options and how to use them
 - Try out AT devices through demonstrations and short-term loans before purchasing
 - Acquire AT and durable medical equipment through alternative financing programs as well as lightly used and refurbished devices through State AT reutilization programs

Partnerships for Accessible Homes

- AT partners have common goals:
 - to promote the ability of individuals with functional limitations of all ages to live in the home of their choice.
 - for aging in place to enhance community engagement and integration.
 - Possible opportunities for partnership:
 - Increasing awareness of assistive technology, including access to remote technologies.
 - Connecting people to the assistive technology that works best for them through demonstrations and short-term loans.
 - Training and technical assistance on assistive technology adaptations and modifications.
- 

Overview of Activities for Selecting Appropriate Assistive Technology Devices and Services

State-Level Activities:

- Device Demonstration
- Device Loan
- Device Reutilization (Reuse)
- State Financing

State Leadership Activities:

- Information & Assistance
- Training and Technical Assistance Transition
- Public Awareness



Connect with AT Act Programs @ ACL

ACL

Rob Groenendaal: robert.groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov

AT3

AT3 Center: <https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>

AT Data

Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA):
<https://catada.info>

Social

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aclgov>



U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development

Office of Lead Hazard
Control and Healthy
Homes

Older Adult Home
Modification Grant
(OAHMP)

Monday, August 7, 2023

Dr. Taneka Blue, OTR/L, CAPS
Government Technical
Representative (GTR)



Program Overview

Over the last two years, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has made \$15-30 million available in grant funding under its Older Adults Home Modification Program (OAHMP).

Purpose: Assist organizations and agencies to make low-cost, low-barrier, high-impact home modifications and repairs to meet the needs of low-income elderly homeowners.

Goal: To enable low-income elderly persons to remain in their homes by reducing older adults' risk of falling, improving safety, increasing accessibility, and improving their functional abilities in their home.

Basic Program Requirements: Who Can Apply?

Eligible Applicants	County, state, city, township, special district governments; Non-profit organizations having a 501(c)(3) status; Public housing agencies
Program-Specific Requirements	Eligible applicants need to have at least 3 years of experience in providing services to elderly persons.
Urbanized Area or Substantially Rural Designation	Applicants must designate in applications the target area as urbanized area and/or substantially rural area, utilizing the Tool developed by HUD.
Program Beneficiaries	Low-income homeowners aged 62 or older
Awards	Cooperative Agreements: \$500,000 - \$1,250,000 for a 36-month performance period

Find OAHMP Grantees in Your Area

- 46 experienced organizations have been awarded grant funding to increase the safety, accessibility, and functionality of homes owned by low-income adults 62 and older to effectively age in place.
- [https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD No 23 087](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_23_087)
- <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PA/documents/OAHMP-Grantees.pdf>

What Can This Grant Do for You???

- **Support** the independence of older homeowners in your community
- **Demonstrate** that providing client-focused, low-cost home modifications is feasible, beneficial, and empowering
- Help you **engage** with aging adults in your community and address their home modification needs
- **Support** affordable and accessible housing goals by improving existing owner-occupied housing stock
- **Protect** adults from potential falls, injury, reduced independence, hospitalizations, and homelessness

Be on the lookout for new 2023 funding opportunities!

Bookmark and monitor:

- HUD's Press Release
- HUD's Funding Opportunities Page
- Grants.gov
- The Federal Register



Questions?

Contact:

Dr. Taneka Blue, Government Technical Representative

Taneka.M.Blue@hud.gov

202-402-6846

USDA Home Modification & Repair Funding

Featured Presenter

Kimi Barnes, Fix It Coordinator, FREED, Inc. – northern California

ABILITY REDEFINED

FREED



FREED is an Independent Living Center serving people of all ages in the Northern California counties of Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Sutter and Colusa



PERSON CENTERED HOME MODIFICATION SERVICES

Consumers are...

- the center of their own services,
- the ones who decide what services they would like,
- or even if they want services at all.

MULTIPLE PROGRAMS SUPPORT HOME MODIFICATIONS



1. Fix It



2. Assistive Technology



3. Transition



4. Enhanced Information & Assistance

FIX IT PROGRAM SERVICES



Provides minor home modifications and repairs for older adults and people with disabilities at no charge:

- Install grab bars, transfer poles, portable aluminum ramps and railings
- Minor repairs to porches, stairs, ramps
- Repair leaky toilets and faucets
- Assist with institution-to-home transition home modifications
- Referrals to other agencies and resources for larger projects



FIX IT SERVICE DELIVERY

Fix It services are provided by:

1. Volunteers
2. Contractors and handymen
3. Collaboration with other agencies

FIX IT FUNDING SOURCES

- Agency on Aging Area 4
 - Older American's Act Title IIIB Funds
 - Older Adults Recovery and Resilience Funding - Dignity at Home
- Nevada County General Funds
- Yuba City CDBG (Community Development Block Grant)
- Nevada County CDBG (Community Development Block Grant)

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS



- Equipment Reuse Donate or Receive used DME
- Device Demonstration & Lending Library

WAYS WE PARTNER

- Streamline Services: One intake process and service coordination by either AT or Fix It – many consumers receive both services
- Use loaned items like portable ramps while permanent modifications are planned

TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAMS

- Transition Coordinator meets with consumers at skilled nursing facility and conducts a home visit before discharge to identify needs
- Connects consumers to services including Fix It and Assistive Technology before discharge for safe transition to home
- Designed to prevent hospital & skilled nursing readmission by supporting consumers and their families after discharge
- Follow up and support after transition home

TRANSITION FUNDING SOURCES

California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) funds:

- Transition/Diversion Grant, moving from Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility to home OR to prevent entering a congregate care setting
- Community Living Fund (CLF) assist with needs to return home or divert from institutionalization

State of CA Medi-Cal funded services:

- CA Community Transitions Money Follows the Person

Home Modifications for a transition that utilized the Fix It and Assistive Technology programs, a Transition and CLF grant from the DOR as well as the Handyman referral list.



ENHANCED INFORMATION & REFERRAL

For repairs and modifications that fall outside the scope of FREED Fix It services, referrals are made to community resources and outside agencies.

- FREED Handyman Referral List
- Home Safe Program through County Adult Protective Services
- USDA Home Repair loan & grant programs
- Habitat for Humanity – home repair programs
- Veterans Disability Housing grants
- Yuba Sutter Veterans Stand Down
- Weatherization Assistance Programs

FREED



QUESTIONS

Grass Valley

435 Sutton Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 477-3333 voice
(530) 477-8194 TTY
(530) 477-8184 fax
(800) 655-7732 Toll Free

Yuba City

1100 Butte House Road, Suite 120
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 742-4474 voice
(530) 742-2379 TTY
(530) 742-4476 fax

Serving Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Sutter and Colusa Counties

www.FREED.org

Chat

What is the biggest challenge your agency has faced in meeting your community's AT, home modification, and repair needs?

Featured Presenter

Tobias Orr, Director, Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) – Nebraska

Nebraska Home Modification Program

Presented by: Tobias Orr



Nebraska State AT Program

- State agency within Nebraska VR and the Department of Education
- Serve all counties in Nebraska
 - Population = 1.964 million
 - Half the population lives in the Southeast corner
- Help consumers learn about and obtain assistive technology
 - Including home and vehicle modifications

Home Accessibility Modifications

Entry

- Entrance ramp
- Vertical platform lift
- Half steps
- Door widening
- Door opener

Bathroom

- Roll in shower
- Grab bars
- Roll under sink
- ADA height toilet
- Door widening
- Bidet

Kitchen and other

- Stove with controls on the front
- Lowered cabinets
- Roll under sink
- Stair lift
- Ceiling track lift
- Smart Home technology

Benefits of an Accessible Home

- Allows a person with a disability to live in the community and home of their choice
- Reduces the chance of falls/injuries
- In rural areas, if an assisted living facility or nursing home are not nearby, a person may be forced to leave their community and their support network

Nebraska Partnerships

How are Home Modifications funded in Nebraska?

- Aged and Disabled Waiver
- Developmental Disability Waiver
- Nebraska VR (Vocational Rehabilitation)
- Private Foundations and Grants
 - Enrichment Foundation, MS Society
- Other Government Programs
 - USDA
 - Barrier removal programs
 - Economic Development (Owner Occupied Rehab grants)
- Easterseals Alternative Finance Program

Nebraska Partnerships Continued

Benefits of the partnerships in Nebraska

- Quality control
- Cost savings to the taxpayer
- Unbiased assessments
- Knowledgeable project design and management
- Ability to blend different funding sources

The Process – Step 1

Referral received

- Service Coordinator from Center for Independent Living (CIL) or area agency on aging (AAA) – Aged and Disabled Waiver
 - In Nebraska a CIL and the AAAs have the contract with Medicaid for waiver service coordination
- Nebraska VR
- Developmental Disability Service Coordinator – Developmental Disability Waiver

The Process – Steps 2 and 3

Assessment

- Technology Specialist meets with, assesses consumer
- Plans/specifications are reviewed, approved by consumer

Project sent out for quotes

- Plans sent to ATP approved contractors for quotes
 - Contractors receiving Nebraska Waiver funds must be approved Medicaid providers
- Attempt to get at least 2 quotes
- Project awarded to lowest appropriate bid

The Process – Step 4

Contractor performs the home modification

- ATP provides project oversight
- Any changes must be approved by ATP and consumer
- Once complete, ATP staff inspects the project with consumer
- Consumer signs off on Acceptance and Agreement form
- Once complete, contractor payment is processed
- All work/materials warrantied for one year

Resource Coordination

ATP provides resource coordination for assistive technology and home/vehicle modifications

- Service and Device application (S and D)
- Resource Coordinator researches potential funding sources
- If qualified for a funding source managed by ATP, the request is referred to the appropriate Program Supervisor
- A Resource Letter is sent to consumer
 - Detailed instructions on how to apply for various potential funding sources
 - Resource Specialist available to assist consumer
 - Referred to other ATP programs if appropriate (Reuse, Loans)

Cost Savings to the Taxpayer

Home Modification cost vs. cost of a Nursing Home

- Average project cost in Nebraska = \$8,500
- Average cost of a one month stay at a Nursing Home in Nebraska = \$7,483 - \$8,289 (www.seniorliving.org)

Average cost of a hospital stay (healthcare.gov)

- Broken leg = \$7,500
- 3-day hospital stay = \$30,000

Questions?

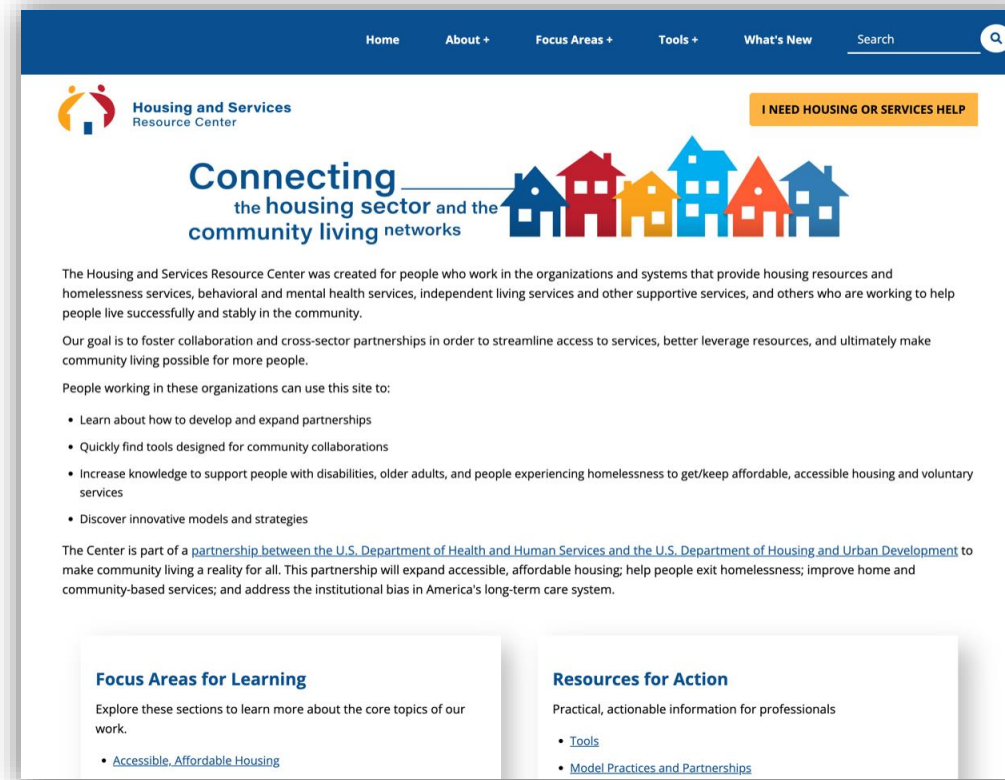


Tobias Orr – tobias.orr@nebraska.gov

Q & A




HSRC Website



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Housing and Services Resource Center. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Home, About, Focus Areas, Tools, What's New, and a search icon. The main header features the organization's logo and a prominent orange button that reads "I NEED HOUSING OR SERVICES HELP". Below this is a large graphic with the text "Connecting the housing sector and the community living networks" and an illustration of colorful houses. The main body of the page contains a paragraph describing the center's mission, followed by a list of bullet points detailing the site's purpose and the types of resources it offers. At the bottom, there are two white boxes: "Focus Areas for Learning" and "Resources for Action", each with a brief description and a list of links.

Home About + Focus Areas + Tools + What's New Search

 **Housing and Services**
Resource Center

I NEED HOUSING OR SERVICES HELP

Connecting the housing sector and the community living networks

The Housing and Services Resource Center was created for people who work in the organizations and systems that provide housing resources and homelessness services, behavioral and mental health services, independent living services and other supportive services, and others who are working to help people live successfully and stably in the community.

Our goal is to foster collaboration and cross-sector partnerships in order to streamline access to services, better leverage resources, and ultimately make community living possible for more people.

People working in these organizations can use this site to:

- Learn about how to develop and expand partnerships
- Quickly find tools designed for community collaborations
- Increase knowledge to support people with disabilities, older adults, and people experiencing homelessness to get/keep affordable, accessible housing and voluntary services
- Discover innovative models and strategies

The Center is part of a [partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) to make community living a reality for all. This partnership will expand accessible, affordable housing; help people exit homelessness; improve home and community-based services; and address the institutional bias in America's long-term care system.

Focus Areas for Learning

Explore these sections to learn more about the core topics of our work.

- [Accessible, Affordable Housing](#)

Resources for Action

Practical, actionable information for professionals

- [Tools](#)
- [Model Practices and Partnerships](#)

acl.gov/HousingAndServices

Help Us Improve

Please complete our short feedback form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3VMJJD6>



Stay Connected

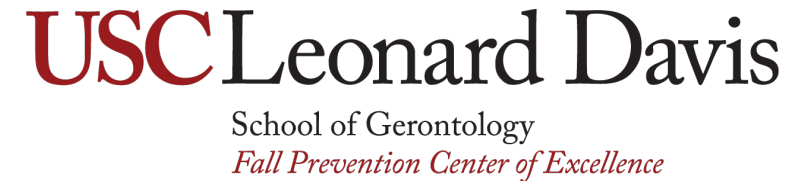
We want to hear from you!

Please email us at hsrc@acl.hhs.gov



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Acknowledgment



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