

ACCESS TO HOME CURRENT FUNDING IS NOT ENOUGH TO MEET NEEDS.



WHAT IS ACCESS TO HOME?

Access to Home is an important program administered by NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) that provides funding for home modifications to allow individuals with disabilities and older New Yorkers to stay in their homes and out of costly institutions. The program was created through advocacy by Independent Living Centers to help more people live in the community. It is administered locally by not-for-profit organizations or municipalities that apply and receive awards from HCR of up to \$150,000 over a two year period. Examples of common accessibility modifications include wheelchair ramps and lifts, handrails, doorway widening, and roll-in showers.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Low-income individuals who need home modifications in order to remain in their homes and out of nursing homes. Individuals can apply to organizations for projects up to \$25,000 to make their home more accessible.

WHY IS THE PROGRAM CRITICAL?

Access to Home keeps people in their homes and out of nursing homes. Housing is the number one barrier to individuals with disabilities and older adults living independently in the community. For many people, the addition of a ramp to their front door makes the difference between being able to leave the house and being homebound. As the aging population continues to increase in New York, the need is even greater. We know based on current data that:

11.3% of New Yorkers have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.¹

3 OUT OF 4 adults age 50 and older want to stay in their homes and communities as they age.²

On average, it costs Medicaid **\$86,596 PER YEAR** to keep someone in a skilled nursing facility in New York.³

FUNDING HAS NOT KEPT UP WITH THE NEED

Access to Home was cut by 75% in 2012. Ever since, the program has been funded at a mere \$1 million statewide, leaving many parts of the state without the program and resulting in years long waiting lists. Organizations receiving the maximum of \$150,000 over two years are only able to complete a handful of projects.

In 2018, only **34%** of counties received program funding.

Over the past six years, only **22%** of organizations applying received program funding.

23 counties received no program funding since 2013.

Most successful organization applications are awarded a mere **\$75,000** /year for two years.

Many of those awards are spread across multiple counties.

