HOME ADAPTATIONS FUNDED BY PA SUPPORT SERVICES WAIVERS

Aging Waiver (Administered by PA Office of Long-Term Living via the DHS Area Agency on Aging)

Aging Home and Community-Based Waiver Services may be available to Pennsylvanians over the age of 60 to enable them to continue to live in their homes and communities with support and services.

Accessibility Adaptations:

Accessibility adaptations to the participant’s home, apartment, or other living arrangement in which the participant resides such as the participant’s family’s home, or the participant’s friend’s home, required by the participant’s service plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home and are permanently attached to an individual’s fixed environment.

This service includes selecting, designing, customizing or replacing accessibility adaptations; evaluating the construction, provision or installation of accessibility adaptations during the adaptation and re-adaptation process; and providing post-installation visual inspections and ensuring that participants accept and can use their accessibility adaptations. Such adaptations include: o the installation of ramps and railings, the installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to ensure the health and welfare of the participant and contribute to the participant’s independence in everyday life, environmental and climate control units, automatic door openers and locks, speaker phones and intercom systems, special lighting devices, over-the-bed tables, stair glider, widening doorways and hallways, non-skid mats, stair strips and runners, wall protection strips and wall runners for wheelchairs, light switch adaptations or extensions, door knob extensions, smoke/fire alarm system adaptations; o handrails and grab bars – such as those required in a bathroom, or in other areas of the home, modification of bathroom facilities, bath bench and bath lifts, stall adaptations – including roll-in showers and fixtures, fixture adaptations for sinks, showers or stoves, kitchen counter and cabinet modifications for participants who use wheelchairs; Rearrangement and new installation of plumbing, drains, electricity, and floor plans to permit least-cost, beneficial home modifications and assistive technology.

Rented property modifications must meet the following:

• There is a reasonable expectation that the participant will continue to live in the home.

• Permission is secured from the property owner for the adaptation.

• The adaptation is not the responsibility of the landlord in their maintenance and oversight of the property.

• The landlord will not increase the rent because of the adaptation.

Consolidated Waiver and Person/Family Directed Support Waiver (Administered by PA Office of Developmental Programs via the DHS Office of Intellectual Disability)

The Pennsylvania Consolidated Waiver is designed to help individuals with an intellectual disability live more independently in their homes and communities and to provide a variety of services that promote community living, including self-directed service models and traditional, agency-based service models.
Home Accessibility Adaptations

Home accessibility adaptations consist of certain modifications to the private home of the participant (including homes owned or leased by parents/relatives with whom the participant resides and family living homes that are privately owned, rented, or leased by the host family) which are necessary due to the participant’s disability, to ensure the health, security of, and accessibility for the participant, or which enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home. This service may only be used to adapt the participant’s primary residence, may not be furnished to adapt homes that are owned, rented, leased, or operated by providers except when there is a needed adaptation for participants residing in a Family Living setting and the life sharing host home is owned, rented or leased by the host and not the Family Living Provider Agency.

Modifications to a household subject to funding under the Waivers are limited to the following:

- Ramps from street, sidewalk or house.
- Vertical lifts.
- Portable or track lift systems. A portable lift system is a standing structure that can be wheeled around. A track lift system involves the installation of a “track” in the ceiling for moving an individual with a disability from one location to another.
- Handrails and grab-bars in and around the home.
- Accessible alerting systems for smoke/fire/CO2 for individuals with sensory impairments.
- Electronic systems that enable someone with limited mobility to control various appliances, lights, telephone, doors, and security systems in their room, home or other surroundings.
- Outside railing from street to home.
- Widened doorways, landings, and hallways.
- An additional doorway needed to ensure the safe egress of the participant during emergencies, when approved by the ODP Regional Office.
- Swing clear and expandable offset door hinges.
- Flush entries and leveled thresholds.
- Plexiglas windows for participants with behavioral issues as noted in the participant’s ISP.
- Slip resistant flooring.
- Kitchen counter, major appliance, sink and other cabinet modifications.
- Bathroom modifications for bathing, showering, toileting and personal care needs.
- Bedroom modifications of bed, wardrobe, desks, shelving, and dressers.
- Stair gliders and stair lifts. A stair lift is a chair or platform that travels on a rail, installed to follow the slope and direction of a staircase, which allows a user to ride up and down stairs safely.
- Workroom modifications to desks and other working areas.

Independence Waiver (Administered by PA Office of Long-Term Living via contracts with Non-profits)

If you are an adult with a severe physical disability, the Independence Waiver may be able to help you live or remain in the community and remain as independent as possible.

Accessibility Adaptations

Home Adaptations are physical adaptations to the private residence of the participant, as specified in the participant’s individual service plan (ISP) and determined necessary in accordance with the participant’s assessment, to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant, and enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home. This includes primary egress into and out of the home, facilitating personal hygiene, and the ability to access common shared areas within the home. Home Adaptations consist of installation, repair, maintenance, permits, necessary inspections, extended warranties for the adaptations.
Adaptations to a household are limited to the following:

- Ramps from street, sidewalk or house • Installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies necessary for the health, welfare and safety of the participant • Vertical lifts • Portable or track lift systems. A portable lift system is a standing structure that can be wheeled around. A track lift system involves the installation of a “track” in the ceiling for moving a participant with a disability from one location to another • Handrails and grab-bars in and around the home • Accessible alerting systems for smoke/fire/carbon monoxide for participants with sensory impairments • Outside railing to safely access the home • Widened doorways, landings and hallways • Swing-clear and expandable offset door hinges • Flush entries and leveled thresholds • Slip resistant flooring • Kitchen counter, sink and other cabinet modifications (including brackets for appliances) • Bathroom adaptations for bathing, showering, toileting and personal care needs • Stair gliders and stair lifts. A stair lift is a chair or platform that travels on a rail, installed to follow the slope and direction of a staircase, which allows a user to ride up and down stairs safely • Raised electrical switches and sockets.

**Adult Autism Waiver (Administered by the PA Office of Developmental Programs’ Bureau of Autism Services via contracts with Non-profits)**

The Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) is a 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver designed to provide long-term services and supports for community living, tailored to the specific needs of adults age 21 or older with ASD. The program is designed to help adults with autism spectrum disorder participate in their communities in the way they want to, based upon their identified needs.

**Environmental Modifications**

These are physical changes made to a participant’s home which are required for the participant to remain safe and free from harm and/or live with more independence.

Environmental Modifications are limited to:

- Installing alarms and motion detectors on doors, windows, or fences.
- Installing brackets for appliances
- Changing or adding locks
- Installing outdoor gates and fences
- Installing plastic windows o Placing electrical switches and sockets out of the participant’s reach
- Making needed changes to a home or vehicle for a participant with a physical disability, such as installing ramps or grab bars, widening doorways, or modifying bathroom facilities

**OBRA Waiver (Administered by PA Office of Long-Term Living via contracts with Non-profits)**

The OBRA Waiver is a Home and Community Based Waiver program that may help you if you have a developmental physical disability to allow you to live in the community and remain as independent as possible.
Accessibility Adaptations

Accessibility adaptations to the participant’s home, apartment, or other living arrangement in which the participant resides such as the participant’s family’s home, or the participant’s friend’s home, required by the participant's service plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home and are permanently attached to an individual’s fixed environment. This service includes selecting, designing, customizing or replacing accessibility adaptations; evaluating the construction, provision or installation of accessibility adaptations during the adaptation and re-adaptation process; and providing post-installation visual inspections and ensuring that participants accept and can use their accessibility adaptations. Such adaptations include:

- The installation of ramps and railings, specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to ensure the health and welfare of the participant and contribute to the participant’s independence in everyday life, environmental and climate control units, automatic door openers and locks, speaker phones and intercom systems, special lighting devices, over-the-bed tables, stair glider, widening doorways and hallways, non-skid mats, stair strips and runners, wall protection strips and wall runners for wheelchairs, light switch adaptations or extensions, door knob extensions, smoke/fire alarm system adaptations, handrails and grab bars – such as those required in a bathroom, or in other areas of the home.
- Modification of bathroom facilities, bath bench and bath lifts, stall adaptations – including roll-in showers and fixtures, fixture adaptations for sinks, showers or stoves, kitchen counter and cabinet modifications for participants who use wheelchairs
- Rearrangement and new installation of plumbing, drains, electricity, and floor plans to permit least-cost, beneficial home modifications and assistive technology.

Rented property modifications must meet the following:

- There is a reasonable expectation that the participant will continue to live in the home; • permission is secured from the property owner for the modification; • documentation of whether the owner will or will not require the home to be returned to its original state; and • the landlord will not increase the rent because of repairs.

COMMERCARE Waiver (Administered by PA Office of Long-Term Living via contracts with Non-profits)

A Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Accessibility Adaptations

Home Adaptations are physical adaptations to the private residence of the participant, as specified in the participant's individual service plan (ISP) and determined necessary in accordance with the participant’s assessment, to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant, and enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home. This includes primary egress into and out of the home, facilitating personal hygiene, and the ability to access common shared areas within the home. Home Adaptations consist of installation, repair, maintenance, permits, necessary inspections, extended warranties for the adaptations.

Adaptations to a household are limited to the following:
HOME ADAPTATIONS FUNDED BY PA SUPPORT SERVICES WAIVERS

- Ramps from street, sidewalk or house
- Installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies necessary for the health, welfare and safety of the participant
- Vertical lifts
- Portable or track lift systems. A portable lift system is a standing structure that can be wheeled around. A track lift system involves the installation of a “track” in the ceiling for moving a participant with a disability from one location to another.
- Handrails and grab-bars in and around the home
- Accessible alerting systems for smoke/fire/carbon monoxide for participants with sensory impairments
- Outside railing to safely access the home
- Widened doorways, landings and hallways
- Swing-clear and expandable offset door hinges
- Flush entries and leveled thresholds
- Slip resistant flooring
- Kitchen counter, sink and other cabinet modifications (including brackets for appliances)
- Bathroom adaptations for bathing, showering, toileting and personal care needs
- Stair gliders and stair lifts. A stair lift is a chair or platform that travels on a rail, installed to follow the slope and direction of a staircase, which allows a user to ride up and down stairs safely
- Raised electrical switches and sockets