Partnerships & Local Coordination for Home Modification Access

A Technical Assistance Brief for Area Agencies on Aging

Home modifications are changes to the home to make daily activities easier and safer. These changes can help people to stay in their homes and communities as they age.

Partnerships are often necessary to deliver these services because home modifications and repairs involve professionals and agencies from the aging, disability, housing, and health care sectors.

Core to their mission of developing a coordinated system of services for older adults in their communities, **Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)** often work through partnerships and referrals to meet needs.

Findings from a survey conducted with AAAs about their involvement in home modification and repair service delivery showed[1]:

46% provide referrals to home modification or repair programs

45% refer clients to home modification funding sources

38% partner with voluntary groups to perform home modifications and repairs (e.g., Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity)

Key Partners for Home Modification Referrals and Services

City/County Housing Community Development Energy Departments

Medicaid Home & Community-Based Services Waiver Programs

Non-Profits (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together)

Weatherization Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Energy

Others: Coalitions, faith-based groups, civic organizations, private contractors, and volunteers

Approaching Partners: How-To Tips

Collect and share Census data to demonstrate the need for home modification in your community, including the size of potential target populations to reach, homeowners versus renters, and those who may need financial support.

Look up relevant statistics such as your state or county's:

- Percentage of the population age 65 and older
- Percentage of population under age 65 with a disability
- Rate of homeownership
- Poverty rate
- Median household income

Describe the services, resources, and expertise your agency offers to effectively address these needs in ways that set you apart from the rest. Communicate what impact your partnership could have and how it would support your partner's goals and mission.

Sustainability: Once you begin a partnership, track key successes to demonstrate the impact of your efforts, help sustain the relationship, and secure new ones. Promote your partner's involvement with social media posts, press releases, and website stories.

Roles in the Home Modification Process

Home modification goes beyond installations. It also involves outreach and education, referral, intake, assessment, setting priorities, securing funding, and follow up to ensure the individual's needs are being met.

Consider what role your agency could play in the home modification process, and reach out to a potential partner today!

Learn more about your state's home modification funding sources!

The USC Home Modification Information Network is a state-by-state inventory designed to put details about each state's home modification policies, funding sources, and programs right at your fingertips.
www.homemods.org/hmin

The Fall Prevention Center of Excellence offers information on how to make homes safe and where to find services, programs, and funding support.
homemods.org

References
The Role of Area Agencies on Aging in Home Modifications and Repairs. (2019).
https://www.n4a.org/Files/DataReport-Home-mod-508.pdf

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Overton, J., Nabors, E., and Pynoos, J. (2022). *Partnerships and State Coordination for Home Modification Access: A Technical Assistance Brief for State Units on Aging*. Fall Prevention Center of Excellence https://homemods.org/resources/