

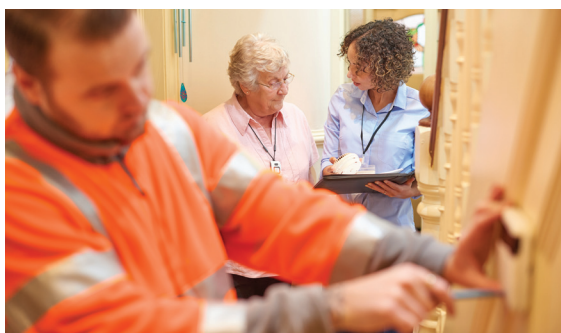


Connecting You to Community Services

**USC**  
**Leonard**  
**Davis**  
School of Gerontology

# Home Repair and Modification Resources

**M**ost of us want to age in our homes and communities, but often, our homes do not support our changing needs. Services exist to increase safety and independence in the home, but we may not know where to turn for assistance. Fortunately, the Eldercare Locator can connect older adults and caregivers to local programs that are designed to help us all age safely at home.



## What Are Home Modifications and Repairs?

Home modifications and repairs can help people maintain their independence, improve their ability to perform daily activities such as cooking, bathing and moving throughout their homes, and can help prevent accidents such as falls. Home modifications can range from simple changes, like replacing doorknobs with pull handles and removing throw rugs, to more complex adaptations such as installing a roll-in shower or wheelchair ramp. In some cases, modifying a home may require repairs such as securing loose stair treads or improving wiring to eliminate the need for dangerous extension cords.

## Examples of Home Modifications

- Moving furniture and clutter from the floor for clear walking pathways
- Removing throw rugs or securing them to the floor
- Installing non-skid flooring or low-pile carpet
- Adding grab bars near the toilet and in the shower and/or bathtub
- Installing a roll-in shower
- Installing handheld shower heads and shower seats
- Adding high-contrast non-skid tape to stairs
- Adding handrails to both sides of staircases
- Improving lighting throughout the home
- Installing ramps or no-step entries to assist individuals using wheelchairs, walkers or canes
- Widening doorways and/or hallways to accommodate wheelchairs and other assistive devices
- Installing varied height kitchen countertops that allow an individual to sit or stand comfortably while cooking

## Finding Help to Modify Your Home

Have you noticed changes in your balance, vision or ability to perform daily activities as you've gotten older? Then your home may need modifications to support these changes.

One home modification or repair could make all the difference. The **Eldercare Locator**, a public service of the U.S. Administration for Community Living, connects older adults and caregivers across the country to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Title VI Native American Aging Programs (Title VI programs) and other local resources that can assist older adults with modifying their homes. Find a AAA or Title VI program by contacting the Eldercare Locator at [eldercare.acl.gov](http://eldercare.acl.gov) and **1 (800) 677-1116** from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM ET, Monday through Friday.

### Key Resources

[www.homemods.org](http://www.homemods.org)

#### University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology

This website provides home modification and repair resources for professionals and consumers, including searchable listings of home modification programs through a National Directory with funding sources and service providers in each state, as well as consumer fact sheets and videos.

#### Eldercare Locator

**Modifying Your Home for Healthy Aging**, an Eldercare Locator publication, highlights the importance of home modifications in helping older adults continue to live safely in their homes as their mobility, sensory and cognitive needs change.

### What Happens When You Call the Eldercare Locator?

Mr. Garcia, 67, contacted the Eldercare Locator because he was worried about slipping and falling in his bathroom.



Eldercare Locator staff explained to Mr. Garcia that his local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) may be able to connect him with home modification options such as installing grab bars. Upon hearing this, Mr. Garcia asked to be transferred directly to his local AAA to learn which options were best for him. He was connected with a local nonprofit home modification program that installed grab bars in and around the shower and by the toilet. They also added anti-slip treads to the shower floor, replaced burnt-out light bulbs, and provided night lights for the bathroom and bedroom. Mr. Garcia felt safer and more confident in his home—and was happy to have a home modification resource that he could turn to for any future needs.

---

### In your community, contact:



This publication was supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$1,070,857 with 70 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$321,145 and 30 percentage funded by non-government source. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government.