RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Livable Home Modification Grant Program

The RI Livable Home Modification Grant program pays for 50% of the cost of safety changes (home modifications) for people with disabilities to stay in their home, up to $4,500.

Once you receive an award letter, you may start the grant's project. Do not start before you receive an award letter.

The grant can be used in an existing home or apartment for one or more of the following:

- Build path to a no-step entrance. A walkway or ramp from driveway, parking, or sidewalk.
- Build an entrance without any steps.
- Build doorways wide enough for the person's wheelchair, at least 32 inches.
- Make hallways wide enough for the person's wheelchair, at least 36 inches.
- Lower light switches and thermostats and raise plugs.
- Walk-in shower or tub; raised toilet seat and sink; add grab bars.
- Change height of kitchen counters, drawers, and shelves.
- Buy low kitchen stove, dishwasher, sink[1];
- Add handrails and grab bars on hallway walls, stairs, or elsewhere in or outside the home.
- Back-up power for equipment[2] in the home. Emergency power for respirators, oxygen concentrators, and/or dialysis machines.
- Home alert for person with dementia.
- Chair lift, stair lift, ceiling and track lift, or elevator.
- Flashing fire alarms and doorbells for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and of hearing; or
- Talking stoves and alarms for persons who are blind or have low vision.

All home modifications must meet the building, fire, and elevator code specifications.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. My income is low, but I have some money saved. Does this affect my eligibility??

No. The program only counts income not money saved during the past year.

2. Do I have to go out to bid when hiring a contractor

No. You are free to pick any licensed contractor.

3. How long should I expect this process to take?

You will hear back within a week if approved; denied; or is incomplete.

4. When do I get paid?

After the work is completed. You send the Claim Form and a copy of all paid bills for the work to

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[1] Built-in appliances are eligible for a Livable Home Modification Grant.
[2] Generators or home monitoring systems easily moved to another home or apartment are NOT eligible for a Livable Home Modification Grant.

For more information or questions contact:
Barbara Palazzo, (401) 462-0103 or barbara.palazzo@gcd.ri.gov
Governor's Commission on Disabilities,
2 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920-3049

Revised 02/27/2023

the Commission. You should receive a check within 40 to 60 days. Longer if all invoices, photos, etc. are not submitted with the claim form.

5. How do I know if I have a disability?

If you have any of the following:

- lost an arm or leg, loss of hearing or vision, or memory loss.
- limited use of an arm or leg, limited hearing, or sight, or solving problems; or
- not able to work, be social, or active. Or limits working, being social, or active.

6. My home modification will cost about $12,000. Will I be reimbursed for 50% of this total?

No. The grant will pay 50% of the total safety costs but only up to $4,500. For any projects costing over $8,000, the maximum grant amount that you will receive is still $4,500.

7. May I use an employee of the contractor, to assess my needs?

No. You must use a medical professional not connected to your contractor.

8. Who is a qualified medical professional for this grant?

Qualified medical professionals must be licensed healthcare professionals, able to determine your healthcare needs and medical eligibility for this grant program. Including physical therapists, occupational therapists, licensed nurse practitioners, physicians, licensed independent clinical social workers, and certified aging-in-place specialists. Not included are certified nursing assistants, physical therapist assistants, certified occupational therapist assistants, non-licensed caseworkers and social workers, and personal care attendants.

9. I file a joint income tax return; do I need to submit any additional information?

Yes, both people will need to include their income tax forms (such as 1040 Individual Income Tax Return, W-2 Wage and Tax Statement, and 1099 tax forms).

10. What are the income limits?

- Adjusted Gross Income from last year's federal income tax return 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ if income tax was filed jointly, Include 1040,W2-1099 for Both Spouse & Applicant.
- Subtract any withdrawal from an IRA or Pension for Medical Needs.
- Maximum Income Table: Check ✓ the number of dependents claimed by the person with a disability on the prior year's federal income tax return 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ

Only the person who has the disability's countable income			
Number of dependents	Maximum Income	Number of dependents	Maximum Income
The person (no dependents)	$78,700	The person + 4 dependents	$121,450
The person + 1 dependent	$89,950	The person + 5 dependents	$130,450
The person + 2 dependents	$101,200	The person + 6 dependents	$139,450
The person + 3 dependents	$112,450	The person + 7 dependents	$148,450
☺ If **Countable Income** is less than the right column above 3, SKIP to SECTION 4. Certification			
😒 If **Countable Income** is greater than the right column, The person does not qualify for a grant.			

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