

## **Home Modification, Home Repair and Weatherization**

Many older adults prefer to remain in their own homes as they age and adjust their homes to meet their needs over time. According to American Association of Retired People (AARP), “older homeowners prefer to age-in-place, which means, older adults want to live safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age or ability.”

Below are resources for adapting the home environment to make it safer and more cost effective for older adults who want to continue living in their same home and meet the challenges of chronic illnesses and physical limitations. This can be accomplished through home modification and by rearranging the living space to make homecare easier for both the disabled senior and the caregiver.

In addition, there are some services for minor home repairs that make it possible for older adults to have work done in a cost effective way.

## **Home Modification for Easier Living**

### **Home Builders Association of Washtenaw County**

The Home Builders Association provides information on Certified-Aging-Place Specialist (CAPS) who specialize in meeting the unique needs of older adults. With a CAPS professional, you can find practical aging-in-place solutions for living barrier free in a safe and comfortable environment. Call 734-996-0100

### **American Association of Retired People (AARP)**

For information and ideas on home design for kitchens, bathrooms, floors, walkways, doors and to consider the important aspects of lightening safety go to <http://www.aarp.org/life/homedesign/>. This website introduces the concept of Universal Design. Homes that have universal design features look like other homes, but they are much easier to use.

## **Home Repair**

### **Housing Bureau for Seniors (HBS)**

Because HBS is committed to older people living in affordable and appropriate homes, it is also committed to the success of the **Rebuilding Together** home repair program. Representatives from HBS are responsible for finding and selecting the Ann Arbor homes each year. This process begins in November, when program notices are sent to human service organizations, churches, synagogues and community leaders, and

The Housing Bureau for Seniors is a community supported program of  
University of Michigan Health System

continues until the last Saturday in April. HBS is delighted it can provide this community service. For information, call 734-998-9339.

HBS also services as an important link to community services by providing referrals to meet varied needs.

### **Friends in Deed**

Friends in Deed is a network of Washtenaw County congregations which provides a wide variety of services on an emergency basis. Areas of assistance that are related to home repair include:

Home Repair Services—minor household repairs  
Appliance Repair  
Call the Helpline at 734-484-4357.

### **Neighborhood Senior Services (NSS)**

NSS supports seniors, age 60 and older, who want to stay in their homes with added support from services and programs. Cost-sharing contributions are requested, but no one is turned away based upon ability to pay.

NSS Services:

- Home Safety Assessment: Identifies home-safety hazards and proposes corrective actions.
- Home Injury Prevention: Addresses fire safety, fall prevention, and security enhancements.
- The Home Maintenance & Repair program offers a reliable and affordable option for the many odd jobs needed around the home. For example, plumbing, weatherization and security enhancements are some of the services.
- Access Ramps: Will construct and install ramps following an assessment.

For more information call 734-712-7775 or go to the website at <http://www.nssweb.org/>

### **City of Ann Arbor Housing Rehabilitation Program**

The city of Ann Arbor Housing Rehabilitation Program assists low- to moderate-income homeowners with needed home repairs and improvements to eliminate code violations, increase safety, and lower energy costs.

For information on this process go to <http://www.a2gov.org/Pages/default.aspx> or a Rehabilitation Specialist at 734-994-2589.

The Housing Bureau for Seniors is a community supported program of  
University of Michigan Health System

## **Weatherization Assistance**

### **Weatherization Assistance Program**

The Washtenaw County Employment Training and Community Services-Housing and Energy Programs offers energy audits to low-income families to determine which energy efficiency measures are most appropriate and cost-effective. Income guidelines apply. Call 734-544-6850 for information on current income guidelines.