

Home Repair and Modification

A key component to healthy aging in the community is ensuring that homes can continue to meet the needs of the older adults who live in them. This means that housing for older adults should be safe, affordable and able to meet the changing needs that can accompany aging—but, unfortunately, many older adults need assistance in making sure their homes can meet these needs. And so, they and their caregivers contact the Eldercare Locator to seek assistance with finding independent housing (56 percent), financial assistance to help cover rental expenses (20 percent) and subsidized housing (18 percent).



Consumer Needs: Issues Facing Older Adults in America Based on Inquiries Received by the Eldercare Locator



Yet housing needs don't end once older adults are able to find and afford a home. Many older adults find that their homes need repairs or modifications that help enable them to continue living safely in their homes. So, whether it be repairing a leaky pipe or modifying one's home to accommodate a stair lift, home repairs and modifications play a central role in enabling older adults to continue living in their homes.

Of the many of the older adults and caregivers contacting the Eldercare Locator for assistance with home repairs in 2018, 41 percent sought assistance with finding information on repairs such as roof replacement, plumbing or structural issues. Others sought assistance with home modifications—changes such as the installation of wheelchair

ramps, grab bars in the bathroom or shower, or the addition of other features that update the home to help ensure that it meets the needs of older adults whose physical needs are changing.

Another major reason older adults and their caregivers contact the Eldercare Locator regarding housing is to seek information on financial assistance programs that will help them continue to afford living in their homes.

Additionally, the Eldercare Locator can connect older adults who do not own their homes to resources that can provide information on local subsidized housing programs such as the local Area Agency on Aging or field office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help older adults continue living in the community independently.



CALL CONNECTIONS

Mr. Newman, 67, contacted the Eldercare Locator about rental assistance and affordable senior housing communities after learning that he would no longer be able to afford his rent and would have to move to a more affordable apartment. Mr. Newman wanted to make sure that wherever he moved would be both affordable and safe, so he called the Eldercare Locator to learn what rental assistance programs existed—and whether he was eligible for them. An Eldercare Locator Information Specialist provided Mr. Newman with contact information for his local Area Agency on Aging where he would be connected to information about housing programs and options near where he lived.



Connecting You to Community Services



advocacy action answers on aging

About the Eldercare Locator

Launched in 1991, the Eldercare Locator is the only national information and referral service that provides support to consumers across the spectrum of issues affecting older Americans. The Locator was established and is funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, which is part of the Administration for Community Living, and is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a).

About the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American aging programs so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities. www.n4a.org

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1 (800) 677-1116 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 8:00 pm) | eldercare.acl.gov

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