

Rural Home Access Program

For older adults, falling once doubles the chances of a repeat accident. Removing hazards at home can reduce risk!



The *Rural Home Access Program* (RHAP) **helps low-income homeowners ages 62+** age in place – **stay in your own homes**. RHAP is available in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pinal, Santa Cruz and **rural** areas of Maricopa and Pima counties. The program includes:

- ★ Individualized home visit and evaluation to determine access needs, barriers, solutions, and grant eligibility
- ★ Plan detailing recommendations to eliminate or mitigate barriers
- ★ Low-cost access and safety solutions, adaptations, and/or modifications

Examples: *lever handles & faucets • handrails/railings
comfort-height toilet • anti-slip floor coating • grab bars
lighting visual doorbells/alarms • shower chairs/benches*

Funding partner: Office of Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes, HUD – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



Contact us to learn more

(520) 624-6452 • (800) 342-1853 *toll-free*
711 National Relay • hap@directaz.org

ABILITY
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Direct
Advocacy & Resource Center



Advocating voice, choice and independence for people with disabilities

NEWS RELEASE

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**NEW PROGRAM HELPS
AGING ADULTS STAND UP TO FALLS**

TUCSON, Arizona – As falls continue to be a national public health concern, a local nonprofit takes steps to keep older adults on their feet.

Direct Advocacy & Resource Center recently launched a new falls prevention program, the *Rural Home Access Program* to specifically address the needs of aging homeowners in seven counties.

Falling once doubles an individual's chances of a repeat incident, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which also identifies about 36 million falls among older adults each year. The Joint Center of Harvard University reports that nearly half of older adults age in low density or rural areas – many who need financial assistance to make accessibility and safety changes to their homes.

The *Rural Home Access Program* offers such assistance to homeowners ages 62+ with low to moderate household income (up to 80% area median income) in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pinal, Santa Cruz and rural areas of Maricopa and Pima counties.

"Removing hazards at home can significantly reduce the risk of falling," explains Jocelyn Lewis, Occupational Therapist at Direct Advocacy & Resource Center. "Eliminating risk promotes aging in place by improving overall safety, preventing injury, increasing accessibility, and enhancing functional ability at home."

The *Rural Home Access Program* is free for eligible beneficiaries and includes individualized home assessments and low-cost, high-impact safety solutions (e.g., grab bars, handrails/railings, comfort-height toilet, lighting, shower chairs/benches, anti-slip floor coating).

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Advocating voice, choice and independence for people with disabilities

“There is a strong link between health and homes,” notes Lupita Munoz, Home Access Administrator at Direct Advocacy & Resource Center. “We help older adults make their homes safe so they can avoid unnecessary admittance to nursing facilities or assisted living. Everyone should have the opportunity to live in their own homes – for life.”

Through this new initiative, Direct Advocacy & Resource Center expands its 30-year-old Home Access Program for people with disabilities. Partnering with sister center Ability360 to expand reach, this new program offers services for traditionally under-served older adults in southeastern and central Arizona.

Funding for the *Rural Home Access Program* is through the Office of Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD awarded \$30 million to 32 nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities under a new Older Adult Home Modification Program.

Anyone interested in applying for the *Rural Home Access Program* should contact Direct Advocacy & Resource Center: hap@directaz.org, 520-561-8777, 800-342-1853 *toll-free*, 711 National Relay.

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About Direct Advocacy & Resource Center

Founded in 1980, Direct Advocacy & Resource Center is a private, nonprofit organization operated by and for people with disabilities. The center is part of a state and national network of centers for independent living (CILs) focused on ensuring people with disabilities have equitable access and equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of life in our community. Direct Advocacy & Resource Center serves southeastern Arizona and is based in Tucson. www.directaz.org

Home Access Program



Direct's **Home Access Program**

provides assessments and modifications to eliminate/mitigate barriers to access, safety, and independence at home:

- ★ Individualized evaluation to determine access needs, barriers, solutions, and grant eligibility*
- ★ Customized home modification(s) by licensed contractors who follow strict accessibility guidelines

Examples

*lever handles and faucets • roll-in/step-in showers
ramps • visual doorbells/alarms • widened doorways
lifts • low-rise steps • automatic doors • grab bars*

*[*Our funding partners include the City of Tucson, Pima County, Mercy Care Plan, and Banner. Direct also accepts private pay.]*



Interested?

contact us to learn more

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Our Center

Founded in 1980, **Direct Advocacy & Resource Center**

is a private, nonprofit organization **operated by and for people with disabilities.**



Direct is part of a national network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that:

- ★ Advocates for disability rights and justice
- ★ Supports individuals in pursuing their goals

Direct collaborates at the local, state, and national levels to advance the disability rights movement. With our mission, vision, values, and services grounded in the Independent Living philosophy, Direct dedicates its efforts to ensuring people with disabilities have equitable opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of life.

Our Mission & Vision

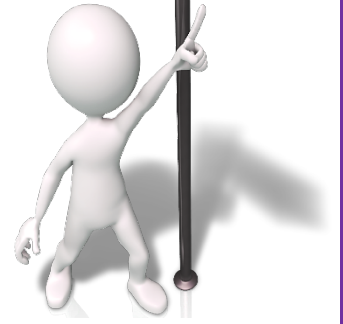
Direct advocates voice, choice, and independence for people with disabilities. We envision a world of universal access and opportunity for all people with disabilities.



Contact

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Our Programs

Advocacy – Training on speaking up for our rights; Organizing to create positive change

Counseling Directions – Mental health counseling grounded in independent living philosophy

Home Access Program – Home adaptations/modifications to increase access, safety, and independence

Independent Living Skills Training – Education to learn and practice the wide range of skills needed to live independently in the community

Information & Referral – Helpful information and referrals to internal and community resources

Linkages – Connections with employers to advocate the benefits of hiring workers with disabilities

Peer Mentoring & Support – Opportunities to work with each other to share life experiences, exchange information, explore options, and make informed decisions

Transitioning – Assistance moving out of nursing/institutional facilities; Support to disabled youth in pursuing goals after high school

Rehabilitation Instructional Services – Individualized, one-on-one training programs specifically for vocational rehabilitation participants (including AT, Braille, and O&M)