

# Accessibility

## Home Modification Funding



**Accessibility** refers to the design of environments, products, devices, or services that makes it possible for people to approach, enter, or use them.

Any family with a child or adult with physical limitations has experienced problems with accessibility in their environment including their own home. Stairways inside and outside, narrow doorways, the height of countertops and light switches are examples of barriers that may need to be addressed in the home.

There are many options to choose to make your home accessible. Start by researching options to suit your family's needs. Search online, attend conferences or resource fairs and talk to other families. Contractors who specialize in accessibility are a great resource. They can explain what options will work for your home and help you understand the rules and regulations associated with accessibility.

Home accessibility construction projects are expensive. There are several types of funding sources available to help families. Community and state programs may offer full or partial funding. Some programs may offer grants, low cost loans or reimbursement for projects.

Family TIES of Massachusetts provides information, referral, and parent to parent support for families of children with special health needs or disability and their professional partners. We also provide information about Early Intervention (EI) and maintain a complete list of EI Programs in Massachusetts.

The information provided on the back page of this sheet is not a complete list of the resources that may be available. For information about community based programs, resources and local support groups, please call your Regional Coordinator or our toll-free line 800-905-TIES (8437).

We publish an annual *Directory of Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Special Needs*. The Directory is always listed as the first place to look for resources on our Topic Sheets!

Call us if you would like a copy of the directory mailed to you. A pdf version of the directory is available to download on our website [www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org). You can also find the phone number for the Family TIES Regional Coordinator for your area on our website.



## Information and Resources

### Family TIES Resource Directory:

- Under *Accessibility* and *State Agencies*

### Massachusetts Department of Public Health Programs:

- Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund  
<https://www.mass.gov/catastrophic-illness-in-children-relief-fund-cicrf>

### Other Massachusetts State Agency Programs:

- Department of Developmental Services of MA, Flexible Funding Supports  
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-family-support-services-information>
- MA Commission for the Blind  
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind>
- Home Modification Loan Program  
<https://www.mass.gov/home-modification-loan-program-hmlp>

### Statewide:

- Easter Seals Assistive Technology Loan  
<https://www.easterseals.com/ma/our-programs/assistive-technology/loan-programs.html>
- Knights of Columbus  
<http://maskofc.org/program-team/#programs>

### National:

- United Cerebral Palsy  
<http://ucp.org/>
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (or other diagnosis-specific groups)  
<https://www.mda.org/>