



Independence, Inc. Accessible Housing Program (AHP)

The Independence, Inc. Accessible Housing Program is available to both renters and homeowners and made possible through the City of Lawrence Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This program assists people with disabilities and low incomes make needed accessibility improvements to their homes.

Individuals with disabilities who rent a house or apartment have a right to make reasonable accessibility modifications under the Fair Housing Act, Kansas Act Against Discrimination and Chapter X of the City Code of Lawrence, Kansas. The landlord is not required by law to pay for accessibility improvements, so many people with low incomes need to access financial assistance in order to make the modifications.

Types of Modifications Possible through (but not limited to) the HTF:

- An entrance ramp or stair lift
- Sidewalk to entrance
- Widening doorways; installing a wider door with lever door handles
- Flashing light signal for doorbell and smoke detector
- Grab bars in the bathroom by tub, shower, toilet
- Accessible height toilet with grab bars
- Accessible sink with knee clearance
- Roll-in shower with grab bars
- A hand-held shower unit installed in a tub or shower

Applicant Eligibility (*Please call the Program Coordinator listed below with any questions about eligibility*)

The eligibility criteria for the Independence, Inc. Housing Trust Fund:

1. The applicant must reside within Lawrence, KS city limits and agree to remain in their home for at least one year following the home modification(s)
2. The applicant must have a disability-related need for the requested modification(s)
3. The applicant's total household gross annual income (including all adults living in the home age 18 and over) must not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, according to published guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Income guidelines are referenced on the HTF Program application.
4. Financial assistance is based on the availability of funds at the time of the request. The availability of grant assistance through the Housing Trust Fund is contingent on the outcome of a yearly grant application to the City of Lawrence.

Application Process

An Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program Application can be obtained by coming by our office or contacting:

Daniel Brown | Core Services Manager | 2001 Haskell Ave | Lawrence, KS 66046
Phone: 785-841-0333 ext. 121 | Email: dbrown@independenceinc.org | Fax: 785-841-1094

Send the completed grant application, income documentation for all adults 18+ living in the home, and consent for release of information to the Accessible Housing Program (AHP) Coordinator listed above. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Include with the HTF Application:

- Documentation of Income
 - Enclose documentation of income for all adults 18 and over living in the household that reflects income within the past 6 months.
 - Social Security benefit documentation must show the applicant's current address.
- Modifications Requested
 - List accessibility modifications needed at the top of page 2
- Landlord Agreement
 - If you are renting, have the landlord review the application and sign the Landlord Agreement Form at the bottom of page 2

Other Documents needed before final determination if not already on file:

- Consent for Release of Information form
- Independence, Inc. Consumer Intake form
- Signed HIPAA release

All applications are processed in the order they are received. Independence, Inc. reserves the right to prioritize projects based on greatest need regarding income, safety and accessibility needs.

Once eligibility has been determined, Independence, Inc. will visit you on-site to write bid specifications, then obtain a bid or bids from Accessibility Solutions, a licensed contractor specializing in home accessibility modifications, and/or other licensed contractors if needed.

Once the bids are received, reviewed, and a contractor is selected, Independence, Inc. will notify the applicant and the selected contractor. We will then send the contractor a purchase order to begin work.

Upon completion, Independence Inc. does a final inspection to confirm all modifications have been completed. If the scope of work required a building permit, a City Code Enforcement Officer performs a final inspection. Upon successful completion and processing of a purchase order by our business office, the contractor is paid by Independence, Inc.

Independence, Inc. does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its programs, services, activities or operations.

Additional Resource

Independence, Inc. Accessibility Modification Consulting/Assessment Services

Independence, Inc. provides technical assistance to homeowners and businesses who are considering or planning accessibility improvements in existing or newly constructed housing, and other types of facilities. This includes on-site accessibility assessments and recommendations for improving access. For more information or to schedule an assessment, call Independence, Inc. 785-841-0333.