

APPENDIX G:

Consumer Directed Guidelines for Home Modifications

Home Modifications may be approved through the Consumer Directed option if the modification is related to the participant's developmental disability, is needed to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the participant, and/or enables him to function with greater independence.

Unless otherwise authorized by the Department, permanent environmental modifications are limited to a home that is the participant's principal residence, and is owned by the participant or the participant's non-paid family. Home modifications cannot be approved for participants living in Certified Family Homes.

Portable or non-stationary modifications may be made when such modifications can follow the participant to their next place of residence or be returned to the Department.

Per IDAPA 16.03.13.120.03, Home Modifications must not exceed the prevailing market rate and must be cost effective when compared to reasonable alternatives

Home modifications may include:

- Installation of ramps and lifts;
- Widening of doorways;
- Modification of bathroom and kitchen facilities;
- Installation of electric and plumbing systems which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies necessary for the welfare of the participant; and
- Flooring replacement is only allowed from the area it was removed for modification purposes.

Per IDAPA 16.03.13.111, the participant and their circle of support should identify and prioritize the need for modifications and document attempts to first find other funding or natural supports, such as a family member, a friend, a neighbor or other volunteer, to provide the modification.

Exclusions:

- Modifications or improvements to the home which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant such as:
 - Carpet for full rooms or hallways for aesthetic purposes;
 - Repairs (roof, plumbing, electrical, etc.); and
 - Air Conditioning.

Instructions for finding quality work:

An occupational therapist (OT) should be enlisted to evaluate how a person interacts with his or her environment to complete the tasks or activities related to the home modification being requested. Through this process, an OT identifies cost effective modifications and intervention strategies, with the goal of maximizing the participant's safety and independence in the home. The participant's budget can be used to pay for the OT evaluation.

Prior to submitting a request for a home modification, the employer and circle of support should obtain:

- For modifications under \$500, make a good faith effort to obtain a written bid from three (3) vendors to assure the most cost effective price.
- For modifications over \$500, obtain three (3) written bids from potential vendors (a copy of all 3 bids must be submitted with the home modification request).
- All bids(s) must include:
 - A description of the work to be done;
 - The total cost, which includes material costs and itemized labor costs;
 - The identified quality standard for supplies, e.g. supplies must be new and meet midlevel or higher quality standards;
 - The amount of time that will be needed to complete the job; and
 - A statement the vendor has knowledge of ADA standards to meet the needs of the participant when applicable.

In addition, the employer and circle of support should ensure:

- Adaptions are made in accordance with applicable state and local building codes.
- Contractors provide building permits and inspection reports.
- Home modification costs are paid out of the participant's budget using the vendor request process.