

# Home and Vehicle Modification

Chisty Casey, LTSS Policy Program Manager

# What are Home and Vehicle Modifications?

- ▶ Covered Home and Vehicle Modifications are physical modifications to the person's home or vehicle that directly address the person's medical or remedial need. Covered modifications must be necessary to provide for the health, welfare, or safety of the person and enable the person to function with greater independence in the home or vehicle.

\*Person's home is the primary residence of where the member resides and spends the majority of their time. A "vacation home" would not be considered a "home" for the purpose of Home Modifications.

## What Home and Vehicle Modifications are not.

- ▶ Home and Vehicle Modifications are **not** furnished to adapt living arrangements that are owned or leased by providers of waiver services, including Assisted Living facilities. Home and vehicle repairs are also excluded. A repair is allowed to equipment purchased using the waiver when it is the less costly alternative to replacement. The purchase or lease of a motorized vehicle and regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of a vehicle are not allowable.

# Only the following Modifications are covered:

- 1) Special adaptations to kitchen counters, sink space, cabinets, refrigerators, stoves, and ovens.
- 2) Bathtubs and toilets to accommodate transfer, special handles and hoses for shower heads, water faucet controls, and accessible showers and sink areas.
- 3) Grab bars and handrails.
- 4) Turnaround space adaptations.
- 5) Ramps, lifts, and door, hall and window widening.

## Only the following Modifications are covered (2):

- 6) Fire safety alarm equipment specific for disability.
- 7) Voice-activated, sound-activated, light-activated, motion-activated, and electronic devices directly related to the person's disability.
- 8) Vehicle lifts, driver-specific adaptations, remote- start systems, including such modifications already installed in a vehicle.
- 9) Keyless entry systems.
- 10) Automatic opening device for home or vehicle door.

# Only the following Modifications are covered (3):

- 11) Special door and window locks.
- 12) Specialized doorknobs and handles.
- 13) Plexiglas replacement for glass windows.
- 14) Modification of existing stairs to widen, lower, raise or enclose open stairs.
- 15) Motion detectors.
- 16) Low-pile carpeting or slip-resistant flooring.
- 17) Telecommunications device for the deaf.
- 18) Exterior hard-surface pathways.

# Only the following Modifications are covered (4):

- 19) New door opening.
- 20) Pocket doors.
- 21) Installation or relocation of controls, outlets, switches.
- 22) Air conditioning and air filtering if medically necessary.
- 23) Heightening of existing garage door opening to accommodate modified van.

# Only the following Modifications are covered (5):

- ▶ All Modifications and adaptations shall be provided in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local building and vehicle codes. Services shall be performed following prior department approval of the modification as specified in Iowa Administrative Code and a binding contract between the provider and the person. All contracts for home or vehicle modification shall be awarded through competitive bidding. Service payment shall be made to the enrolled home and vehicle modification provider. If applicable, payment will be forwarded to the subcontracting agency by the enrolled home and vehicle modification provider following completion of the approved modifications.

# Only the following Modifications are covered (6):

- ▶ The person-centered service plan will address how the person's needs are met. Services must be authorized in the person-centered service plan and monitored by the case manager.
- ▶ These services are limited to additional services not otherwise covered under the state plan, including EPSDT, but consistent with waiver objectives of avoiding institutionalization.

# Excluded

- ▶ **Excluded services and costs.** Services, activities, costs, and time that are not covered include modifications that are necessary or desirable without regard to the person's medical or remedial need and that would be expected to increase the fair market value of the home or vehicle, such as furnaces, fencing, roof repair, or adding square footage to the residence, are excluded except as specifically included below.
- ▶ **Repairs are also excluded.** Repairs include any action that is intended to restore to a good or sound condition after decay or damage. Purchase or lease of a vehicle and regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of a vehicle are excluded.
- ▶ The manufacturer recommended upkeep and routine maintenance of the modifications are included.

# Excluded (cont.)

- ▶ The person's case manager is responsible for oversight to avoid duplication of services and to assure state plan services are appropriately authorized in the person's person-centered service plan as needed. Where there is a potential for overlap, services must first be exhausted under Section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- ▶ The first line of prevention of duplicative billing for similar types of services, such as family and community support service, is the person's case manager.
- ▶ The case manager is responsible for the authorization and monitoring of services in a person's service plan. If the case manager authorizes similar services, they are responsible for ensuring that the services are delivered as described in the person-centered service plan.

# Medical Necessity

# Medical Necessity

- ▶ **Medical Necessity** means that a service, procedure, or item is required by your medical condition, necessary and reasonable for treatment, and supported by a valid prescription or documentation

# The Iowa Medicaid enterprise medical services unit reviews whether:

- ▶ The item will make a meaningful contribution to treatment or function improvement.
- ▶ The cost is reasonable relative to therapeutic benefits and alternatives.
- ▶ The item serves the same purpose as an already available, medically appropriate alternative.

# Documentation Requirements

- ▶ **Prescription:** Must include member's name, diagnosis, prognosis, item(s), quantity, duration, prescriber's signature, and date.
- ▶ **Prior Authorization:** For certain items, a written order/prescription plus sufficient medical documentation is required to show the item is medically necessary and reasonable.

# Contractors Requirements

# Contractor Responsibilities

## ▶ Contractor Responsibilities in Iowa

▶ In Iowa, contractors have both **statewide registration obligations** and **trade-specific licensing requirements**, along with insurance, bonding, and local permitting duties.

## ▶ 1. State Registration Requirement

All individuals or businesses performing “construction” work and earning **\$2,000 or more annually** from such work must register with the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) [dial.iowa.gov+1](https://dial.iowa.gov). This applies to general contractors, subcontractors, and specialty contractors. Registration ensures compliance with unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation, and tax obligations, and makes contractor information public [dial.iowa.gov](https://dial.iowa.gov).

# Contractor Responsibilities (cont.)

**Application fee:** \$50 (credit card or ACH only) [dial.iowa.gov](http://dial.iowa.gov)

**Bonding:** In-state contractors typically need a \$5,000 surety bond; out-of-state contractors need a \$25,000 bond [contractorrequirements.com](http://contractorrequirements.com).

**Insurance:** General liability insurance (\$500,000 minimum) and workers' compensation (if employees) are required [contractorrequirements.com](http://contractorrequirements.com).

**Renewal:** Registration must be renewed annually [dial.iowa.gov](http://dial.iowa.gov).

## 2. Trade-Specific Licensing

Certain trades require separate state licenses from boards such as:

**Plumbing & Mechanical Systems Board** (plumbers, HVAC, refrigeration, etc.)

**Electrical Examining Board** (electricians)

These licenses require exams, documented experience, and continuing education [contractorlicenselookup.com+1](http://contractorlicenselookup.com+1).

# Contractor Responsibilities (3)

## 3. Insurance and Bonding Compliance

- ▶ **Workers' Compensation:** Mandatory for contractors with employees; must provide a certificate of insurance naming DIAL as a certificate holder [contractorrequirements.com](https://contractorrequirements.com).
- ▶ **Public Liability Insurance:** Minimum \$500,000 coverage [contractorrequirements.com](https://contractorrequirements.com).
- ▶ **Bonding:** Ensures compliance with Iowa tax laws and protects the state [contractorrequirements.com](https://contractorrequirements.com).

# Contractor Responsibilities (4)

## 4. Local Permitting and Code Compliance

While state registration is central, **building permits and local building codes** are governed by city or county authorities [contractorrequirements.com](https://contractorrequirements.com).

Contractors must:

- ▶ Obtain permits for new construction, additions, structural alterations, and major remodels.
- ▶ Follow local codes that meet or exceed the State Building Code of Iowa.
- ▶ Consult the local building department before starting work to avoid penalties.

# Contractor Responsibilities (5)

## 5. Subcontractor and Branch Office Rules

- ▶ Subcontractors must register separately if they perform construction work in Iowa [dial.iowa.gov](https://dial.iowa.gov).
- ▶ A branch office in Iowa does not qualify as in-state if the business is primarily based outside Iowa [dial.iowa.gov](https://dial.iowa.gov).

## 6. Ongoing Compliance

- ▶ Maintain accurate registration records.
- ▶ Keep insurance and bond documents up to date.
- ▶ Comply with all local and trade-specific regulations.
- ▶ Provide proof of compliance to clients and authorities when requested.

# Budgeting Home and Vehicle Modifications

# What do I need to do?

- ▶ Ensure you have gotten your bid and submitted it to your CM.
- ▶ Ensure your PCSP has the modification in it.
- ▶ Ensure your vendor has all paperwork completed and is approved.
- ▶ FFS needs to submit through Prior authorizations for approval.
- ▶ Ensure your budget is updated to show the Home and Vehicle Modification.

# What do I need to do? (cont.)

- ▶ It is important that you have your work scheduled before you add it to your budget, especially if that is the only service you are using for CCO as Fees are paid monthly.
- ▶ FFS is a prepay service so Home and Vehicle modifications, is paid out the month you put it in your budget, and it is a lot of work on the back end if you don't use it that month.

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SERVICE OPTION	Description of Item or services	Cost per item/service	Frequency	Monthly Costs	Total per month
Individual Directed Goods and Services					
Christy Casey LLC	Home Modification walk in shower	\$3,159.23	1	\$ 3,159.23	\$ 3,159.23
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Directed Goods and Services</b>					\$ 3,159.23
Savings	Description of Item or services	Total Cost of item	Start Date - End Date	Monthly Costs	Total per month
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
<b>Total Savings</b>					\$ -
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					\$ 3,234.47
BUDGET					
Monthly Available Allowance				\$	4,000.00
Less Total Costs				\$	3,234.47
<b>Balance</b>				\$	765.53
MY NEEDS					
This individual budget helps me with the following needs. Check all needs that apply to you.					

# Case Manager Responsibilities

- ▶ Ensure the request is appropriate for the service and that the member has a justifiable need
- ▶ Ensure you have received a copy of the bid
- ▶ Ensure the member PCSP has the modification in it
- ▶ CM will need to submit through Prior authorizations for approval for FFS members
- ▶ Ensure the member budget is updated to show the Home and Vehicle Modification



Health and  
Human Services

# Questions

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