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Fact Sheet

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Housing Information Update #26:
Minnesota Finance Authority publishes
Home Accessibility Design and Funding
Guides

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The Community Living Exchange at Rutgers/NASHP provides technical assistance to the Real Choice Systems Change grantees funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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This Information Update is the twenty-sixth in a series to be made available to improve awareness and understanding of alternative approaches to expand affordable and accessible housing choices for Americans with disabilities. These updates will feature new publications, policy developments at a federal, state, and local levels, and other strategies being pursued by grantees, community and faith-based organizations, and housing agencies to respond to the Olmstead “Community Inclusion” mandate. These Information Updates are being prepared by Michael Morris, Director of the National Disability Institute at the NCB Development Corporation on behalf of the Community Living Exchange at the Rutgers University Center for State Health Policy. To contact Michael Morris directly, his email address and phone number are mmorris@ncbdc.org, (202) 521-2930.

HOUSING INFORMATION UPDATE NUMBER 26

Minnesota Finance Authority publishes Home Accessibility Design and Funding Guides

The Minnesota Finance Authority has made available guides on their website to assist consumers on how to design accessible home modifications and provide details on what funding programs are available from federal, state and local levels. The level of demand for home modifications has grown in popularity over the past few years as the baby boomer generation start moving into their retirement years. These households have begun exploring ways to modify existing homes to address future accessibility needs.

The website provides connection to two distinct guides. The Home Accessibility Remodeling Series provide a chapter by chapter link to technical information including illustrations on issues such as design and construction, movement (circulation, flooring etc.), bathrooms, kitchens and other topics that increase the accessibility of a home. The Home Accessibility Remodeling Funding Resource profiles a range of federal, state (MN) and local financing options. This information includes the basic eligibility requirements and how to obtain application information.

As the housing market around the country gets tighter and locating accessible, affordable housing becomes increasingly difficult, home modifications are an integral way for individuals to remain in place. Home modification is not just a solution for the “Baby Boomer” generation but rather is a way for individuals with disabilities to adapt their living environment to increase ease of use, safety, security and independence. Home modification and repair can help prevent accidents and falls. Research by the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggests that one-third of home accidents can be prevented by modification and repair. Home modifications can enhance comfort, increase safety, prevent injuries, and facilitate ongoing access to community social, recreational, and supportive activities and services.

For more information and to download the Minnesota Home Accessibility Design and Funding Guides visit: www.mhfa.state.mn.us/homes/Access_Series.pdf