

Frequently Asked Questions

Why home modifications?

Many older adults and people with disabilities have nowhere to turn for help with small tasks around their home that improve accessibility and safety. We focus on modifications that support health, home health care and independence. Our work helps reduce accidents, injuries, hospitalizations, caregiving needs and moves to expensive institutional housing.

Is this for low-income households only?

No. We just need to know that we are working on the homes of seniors and people with disabilities. Some households are eligible for Medicaid waivers or grants and we can refer them to those programs.

How much will it cost?

Our volunteers provide their labor at no charge, but most modifications cost something. We estimate the cost of parts and materials for your project and appreciate any financial contribution you can make.

Support Helping Hands

There is no charge for home modifications, but some households cannot afford to pay for the building materials and parts they need. To cover these costs, we rely on contributions from households that are able to pay a bit more than the cost of their own modifications.

Even small donations can buy a light bulb or grab bar fasteners. All contributions help us make a big difference in the homes and lives of many seniors and people with disabilities. Individuals, groups and businesses can donate by:

- Credit card online at www.fairbanksseniorcenter.org
- Check payable to "North Star Council on Aging"

In-kind contributions of tools, safety gear and common home maintenance parts help stretch our dollars. Contact us about items on our "wish list".

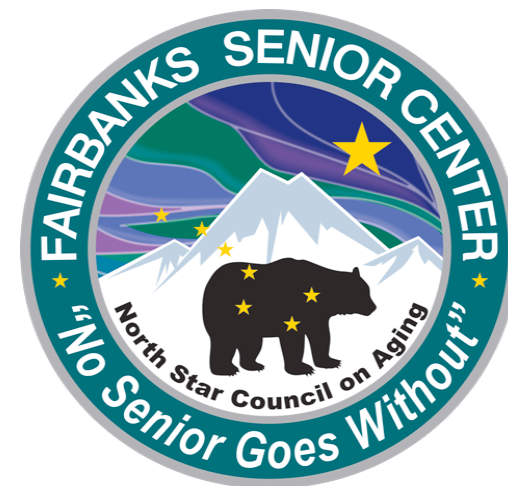
**A program of the
North Star Council on Aging
Fairbanks Senior Center
1424 Moore Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701**



Helping Hands Home Modifications

Helping older adults and people with disabilities to live in the familiarity, comfort and safety of their own home

A service of



(907) 457-4263 [457-HAND]
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www.fairbanksseniorcenter.org

Need a Helping Hand?

If you are a senior or someone with a disability who needs help with small but necessary home safety repairs that you cannot do yourself, contact us.

Tell us what you need. Keep in mind that we focus on small, simple projects that improve health, safety and security and help keep you living at home. See listed "Home modification examples" →

Provide us with some basic information about yourself and your home. Let us know the most convenient days and times for us to look at your project to see if we can help. We will estimate the cost of the materials and parts needed for the work you want done. If you rent your home or apartment, we are required to get your landlord's permission before work can begin. When all paperwork is complete, volunteers show up with their Helping Hands.

Home modification examples

Access

- Handrails
- Stairs & steps
- Door levers & locks
- Entrance access & egress
- Ramps
 - Simple interior & exterior
- Rent-A-Ramp service

Health

- Toilet adjustments
- Height adjustable hand-held showerheads
- Faucets repaired/replaced

Safety

- Grab bar installations
- Safety & security lighting
- Smoke/Carbon monoxide detectors
- Hazards/obstacles removed

Excluded projects

- Routine home maintenance & repairs
- Emergency projects
- Work requiring:
 - Building permits
 - Licensed electricians or plumbers
 - High ladders
 - Heavy lifting

Lend a Helping Hand?

Individual volunteers are men and women with basic home maintenance skills. Some are retired from the building trades and others pick up a tool for the first time at our training sessions.

Groups of volunteers come from churches, civic clubs, local businesses, active military, veterans' organizations, unions and apprentice programs.

Some volunteers work on home modification projects and others help by taking service requests and scheduling projects. All enjoy being part of a collaborative team working together to provide a vital community service that improves the lives of others.

To see if Helping Hands Home Modifications meets your volunteer expectations just contact us or attend one of our group meetings where we share expertise, offer training, provide parts and assign projects to work crews.