

“IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY DEFINITELY INCREASES THE ABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO REMAIN ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATE IN LIFE.”

Karen Michalski-Karney
Executive Director
Blue Ridge Independent
Living Center, Inc.

When homes are affordable and accessible to jobs, schools, transportation, and shopping, everyone benefits. Individual lives are improved and communities as a whole grow stronger.

VAIL's mission is to promote self-direction among people with disabilities and remove barriers to independence in the community. As a center for independent living, VAIL is committed to full participation in community life by individuals with all types of disabilities. Some of the many services that VAIL provides are advocacy, independent living skills training, transitioning from facilities, information & referral, and assistance applying for this program.

Virginia Housing's goal is to help Virginians attain quality, affordable housing. They offer many programs to assist in this goal, including grants for home modifications, mortgages for first-time homebuyers, housing vouchers, financing for revitalization efforts, housing counseling, and tax credits.

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Virginia Housing

601 South Belvidere Street
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1-877-843-2123



A cooperative program from
Virginia Housing, Virginia Department of Veterans
Services, and VAIL.

BE MORE INDEPENDENT

Each of us is born with a desire for independence. When physical disabilities threaten that independence, improved accessibility is one key to restoring it. However, improving accessibility is often easier said than done.

Granting Freedom is a grant program to help Virginia's disabled veterans and service members make their homes more accessible.



ELIGIBILITY

Homeowners and tenants who are veterans or service members who sustained a line-of-duty injury resulting in a service-connected disability may be eligible for grant assistance up to \$6,000.

Some accessibility enhancements that the Granting Freedom Program pays for include:

- Widening doorways
- Adding ramps
- Creating roll-in showers
- Installing grab bars in a bathroom
- Other modifications that help create living spaces more accessible for the recipients

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must be submitted by a Virginia Housing-accepted agent. Valley Associates for Independent Living, Inc. (VAIL) is a registered agent in Planning District 6.

In order to request grant funds, contact VAIL. We will assist you in collecting these needed items:

- ✓ Completed application
- ✓ Contractor's estimate, license, W-9, certificate of insurance, ACH form, and a building permit where required.
- ✓ Documentation of service-connected disability
- ✓ Proof of homeownership or agreement signed by the landlord and tenant that the landlord has approved the work to be done.

Virginia Housing can only provide funding to eligible applicants and only up to \$6,000. Upon approval of the application, Virginia Housing will issue an award letter, allowing four months to have the work completed.

The Granting Freedom Program can be used in conjunction with the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. More information about HISA and restrictions attached can be found at: <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/HISA2.asp>