

	<b>Addictive and Mental Disorders Division</b> Severe and Disabling Mental Illness, Home and Community Based Services Waiver Manual
	<b>Date effective:</b> July 1, 2020  <b>Date revised:</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b> <i>SDMI HCBS 325</i>	<b>Subject:</b> Environmental Accessibility Adaptation

### Definition

Environmental Accessibility Adaptation are those physical adaptations to the home required to enable the member to function with greater independence in the home.

### Determination of Need

- (1) Members are required to have an initial prescription from a licensed health care provider for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation.
- (2) Environmental Accessibility Adaptation must:
  - (a) be functionally necessary and relate specifically to the member's disability;
  - (b) meet the member's needs for accessibility, independence, health, or safety;
  - (c) be likely to improve the member's functional ability or the ability of a caregiver or service provider to maintain the member in the member's home; and
  - (d) be the most cost-effective option that can meet the needs of the member.
- (3) In the absence of the Environmental Accessibility Adaptation, the member would require institutionalization.
- (4) All other community, federal, and state resources must be exhausted before a prior authorization is submitted.

### Provider Requirements

The provider must be a construction company or building contractor who is licensed through the Montana Department of Labor and Industry and properly insured.

### Service Requirements

- (1) Environmental Accessibility Adaptation may include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or installation of specialized electric

and plumbing systems, or other adaptations which are necessary to accommodate medical equipment and supplies.

- (2) Environmental Accessibility Adaptation excludes those adaptations or improvements to the home which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the waiver member, such as carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning, etc.
- (3) Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home are excluded from this benefit except when necessary to complete an adaptation (e.g., in order to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair).
- (4) All services must be provided in accordance with applicable state and local building codes.
- (5) Environmental Accessibility Adaptations may not be furnished to adapt living arrangements that are owned or leased by providers of waiver services.
- (6) This is not a stand-alone service and are limited to a one-time purchase.
- (7) Environmental Accessibility Adaptations may be authorized up to 180 consecutive days of admission to enrollment to the waiver for members who are discharging from institutional levels of care, however, adaptations begun while the member was institutionalized is not considered complete, and may not be billed until, the date the member is enrolled into the waiver.

### **Utilization**

- (1) Environmental Accessibility Adaptations is based on the member's assessed need and are limited to additional services not otherwise covered under Medicaid state plan.
- (2) Environmental Accessibility Adaptations must be prior authorized by the department or their designee.
- (3) Documentation must provide details of the risks/hazards posed to the member, why non-waiver remedies are not appropriate and why the requested adaptation is necessary to prevent institutionalization.
- (4) A minimum of two contractor's bid for the work must be uploaded into the case management system. The bids must include a detailed breakdown of the work to be done, including labor and materials. If two bids are not viable, the case management team must submit supporting documentation detailing why it is not viable.