

26 created the Low-Income Home Accessibility Program for the
27 purpose of assisting low-income persons who have a disability by
28 providing them with home accessibility services that directly
29 affect their health and safety, and reduce premature entry into
30 institutional care.

31 (1) The Legislature finds that there is an insufficient
32 allocation of resources to address housing accessibility for
33 persons who have disabilities, which has resulted in many
34 residents of the state living in unsafe, inaccessible, and
35 unsanitary housing and an increase in the number of persons who
36 have disabilities residing in institutional care. Special
37 programs are needed to stimulate public and private enterprises
38 to repair and rehabilitate housing in order to provide safe,
39 accessible, and sanitary conditions for low-income persons who
40 have disabilities. The Legislature promotes respect for
41 individual dignity, personal responsibility, and self-
42 sufficiency, including the full use and enjoyment of a person's
43 private dwelling.

44 (2) As used in this section, the term:

45 (a) "Center for independent living" has the same meaning
46 as in s. 413.20.

47 (b) "Direct service provider" has the same meaning as in
48 s. 393.063.

49 (c) "Person with a disability" has the same meaning as the
50 term "individual with a disability" as defined in s.

51 413.08(1)(b). The term includes a person with a developmental
52 impairment, which is a severe chronic disability of a person
53 which is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or
54 combination of mental and physical impairments, is manifested
55 before the person attains age 22, is likely to continue
56 indefinitely, and results in substantial functional limitations
57 in three or more of the following areas of life activity:

- 58 1. Self-care.
- 59 2. Receptive and expressive language.
- 60 3. Learning.
- 61 4. Mobility.
- 62 5. Self-direction.
- 63 6. Capacity for independent living.
- 64 7. Economic self-sufficiency.

65 (3)(a) A person with a disability is eligible to receive
66 assistance under this section if the person has an income in
67 relation to the person's family size which is at or below 125
68 percent of the poverty level as specified annually in the
69 federal Office of Management and Budget Poverty Guidelines.

70 (b) A person who is eligible under paragraph (a) may
71 receive assistance if the person resides in a private dwelling
72 that is owned or occupied by the eligible person, including a
73 single family home, manufactured home, townhome, apartment or
74 other individual rental unit, or other privately owned dwelling
75 in which the eligible person currently resides, and for which

76 necessary home accessibility assistance is needed.

77 (c) The corporation, in cooperation with appropriate
 78 centers for independent living, shall adopt or revise, as
 79 necessary, policies and procedures governing the operation of
 80 the Low-Income Home Accessibility Program, including eligibility
 81 criteria. Centers for independent living shall provide
 82 assistance to program participants and administrative support
 83 services, and implement internal guidance and control measures
 84 to ensure program integrity.

85 (4) (a) Assistance authorized under this section includes:

86 1. Transition assistance from institutional care such as
 87 hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, or other
 88 institutions.

89 2. Wages, benefits, payroll taxes, insurance, and other
 90 employer-paid benefits for direct service providers.

91 3. Egress or physically disabled accessibility repairs or
 92 improvements, including the materials and labor for such repairs
 93 or improvements, including wheelchair ramps, steps, porches,
 94 handrails, or other health and safety measures.

95 4. Physically disabled assistive devices, including
 96 walkers, shower chairs, wheelchairs, flashing doorbells, or
 97 other devices necessary for the health and safety of the person
 98 with a disability.

99 5. Materials and labor for electrical repairs.

100 6. Materials and labor for repairs to deteriorating walls,

101 floors, and roofs.

102 7. Other interior and exterior repairs as necessary for
103 the health and safety of the person with a disability.

104 (b) Administrative expenses may not exceed 10 percent of
105 the total grant funds.

106 (5) (a) Funds appropriated to the department for the
107 program shall be deposited into the State Housing Trust Fund.
108 Administrative and personnel costs incurred by the corporation
109 in implementing this section may be paid from the fund.

110 (b) Funds shall be distributed to the centers for
111 independent living as follows:

112 1. For each county, a base amount of at least \$3,000 shall
113 be set aside from the total funds available, and such amount
114 must be deducted from the total amount appropriated by the
115 Legislature.

116 2. The balance of the funds appropriated by the
117 Legislature shall be divided by the total poverty population of
118 the state, and this quotient shall be multiplied by each
119 county's share of the poverty population. That amount plus the
120 base of at least \$3,000 constitutes each county's share. A
121 center for independent living that serves more than one county
122 shall receive the base amount plus the poverty population share
123 for each county to be served. Contracts with centers for
124 independent living may be renewed annually as funding permits.

125 (6) (a) The corporation shall establish rules to address

126 the selection of one or more public or private not-for-profit
127 entities, which are experienced in providing assistance to
128 persons with disabilities and accessibility repairs, to
129 administer the program if a center for independent living elects
130 to not administer the program in its service area.

131 (b) If an eligible public or private not-for-profit entity
132 fails to agree to serve a county, the corporation shall
133 distribute the funds for that service area to the centers for
134 independent living with the best performance records as
135 determined by corporation rule. At the end of the contract year,
136 any uncontracted or unexpended funds must be returned to the
137 State Housing Trust Fund and reallocated in the following year.

138 (7) The corporation may perform all actions appropriate
139 and necessary to carry out the purposes of this section,
140 including, but not limited to:

141 (a) Entering into contracts and agreements with agencies
142 of the state, local governments, or any person, association,
143 corporation, or entity.

144 (b) Seeking and accepting funding from any public or
145 private source.

146 (c) Adopting and enforcing rules consistent with this
147 section.

148 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.