

HOUSING

PERSONAL RESIDENCES THAT ARE
AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE



AGING TEXAS WELL MEANS THAT TEXANS PREPARE FOR AGING IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE AND THAT STATE AND LOCAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITATES AGING WELL THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN.

More than 90 percent of people age 65 and older would prefer to stay in their current residences as long as possible.

TRENDS

- It's estimated that nearly 80 percent of Americans 55 and over own their own homes.
 - 30 percent of elderly households pay more than 1/3 of their income for shelter.
 - Proper insulation and home weatherization can reduce older Texans' monthly home energy cost.
 - Older Texans' houses may require substantial repairs or modifications to support independent living.
 - Property taxes and homeowners insurance place a financial burden on those living on fixed incomes.
- With the exception of handrails and grab bars, home modifications appear in fewer than 10 percent of homes whose residents report physical limitations.

POLICIES, PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Various Federal and state-funded programs encourage construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing - including accessibility improvements - and help low-income people pay their housing costs.
- Programs range from loans or grants to encourage affordable housing to funds for repair and replacement of inefficient heating and cooling systems.
- Federal laws require accessibility features in both government-subsidized and multi-family housing.
- Limited government assistance is available for people who need in-home personal assistance. For example:
 - *Medicare pays for personal care provided by home health aides on a part-time or intermittent basis when the patient is also receiving skilled care.*
 - *Income-eligible older adults can receive Medicaid funding for supportive services if funding is available.*

GET INVOLVED!

- Create awareness of supportive services such as home modifications and supportive services.
- Promote compliance with accessibility laws and use of universal design.
- Participate in state, local government, and Public Housing Authority planning processes, and collaborate with existing organizations to ensure that housing resources are used effectively to meet local needs.

Expand coordination among local, public, and private organizations to ensure that older Texans have access to supportive services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOUSING

Contact your local **area agency on aging** at: **800.252.9240** for Aging Texas Well resources and services in your community. Or, visit DADS at www.dads.state.tx.us for this and other Aging Texas Well publications.