

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO REMAIN AT HOME

COMMUNITY HOUSING RESOURCES FOR ADULTS <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/homeimprovement/Cherokee.pdf>

1. a. CDBG Scattered Site Housing is state administered by the NC Department of Commerce/Division of Community Assistance and intended for persons living in small cities and other areas not covered in part b. below. Every three years, county governments are eligible to apply for a grant of \$400,000. Funds can be targeted to low-income homeowners to address critical housing rehab needs including certain manufactured homes built after 1978. Contact the county manager's office for more information in applying for a deferred or low interest repayable loan. Cherokee County was eligible for CDBG-Scattered Site Housing in 2010.

<http://www.nccommerce.com/en/CommunityServices/CommunityDevelopmentGrants/CommunityDevelopmentBlockGrants/ScatteredSiteHousing/>

1. b. CDBG Entitlement Communities is an annual HUD administered grant. Entitlement community grantees apply for funding to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment for entitlement areas of NC including low/moderate income homeowners in: Asheville, Burlington, Cary, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Concord, Durham, Fayetteville, Gastonia, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, High Point, Jacksonville, Kannapolis, Lenoir, Morganton, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem and three counties: Mecklenburg, Wake and Cumberland except Holly Springs and Linden. <http://www.hud.gov/local/nc/community/cdbg/index.cfm>

2. The Displacement Prevention Partnership is administered by NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation-Independent Living Program and NC Housing Finance Agency to assist persons whose home needs accessibility modifications so they can continue to live there. **Contact the Sylva IL office 828-586-3455**

b) NCDVR also administers the NC Assistive Technology Program (state and federally funded) which promotes devices and equipment that persons with disabilities use to make everyday living easier. All ages and all disabilities are served. Contact the **Mountain Region office in Sylva at 828-631-9461** or go on line to www.ncatp.org

3. HCCBG – The Federal Home and Community Care Block Grant, Housing and Home Improvement service administered by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services through the regional Area Agency on Aging is optional per county. Services include information on housing locations, renting, home ownership, foreclosures, home modifications and minor home repair, etc. Adults age 60+ are eligible to apply. (<http://www.regiona.org>) Cherokee County has limited funding for Housing/Home Improvement. **Contact the Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging 828-586-1962 in Sylva.**

4. North Carolina offers three property tax relief programs for the permanent residence of qualified homeowners. The deadline to submit an application is June 1 of each year. A) Elderly or Disabled Exclusion-applicants must be 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled. B) Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment Program- 65 years of age or totally and permanently disabled and C) Disabled Veteran Exclusion. **Contact your county tax office for more information.** <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/housing/NC-HousingTaxRelief.pdf>

5. Home equity and home improvement loans are available from banks and mortgage lenders. These loans enable homeowners to borrow against the equity in their homes and generally require loan payments to be made on a monthly basis. Reverse Mortgage is another option to finance home improvement for homeowners 62 years of age and older. A portion of the home equity can be converted into tax-free cash that can be used for any purpose without requiring monthly payments. When the borrower permanently moves out of the home, the loan becomes due. NC requires face to face counseling prior to making application. **Contact Affordable Housing Coalition of Asheville and Buncombe County 828-259-9216 or CCCS of Western North Carolina 828-255-5166-123**

6. USDA - The United States Department of Agriculture has a Home Repair Loan and Grant Program – Section 504. Very low income homeowners, age 62+ in rural areas needing assistance with repairs and improvements (includes ramp construction) which will make their home safer and more sanitary or assistance with the removal of health and safety hazards may make application at the local USDA office. (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nc/do-list.htm>) **Call the Franklin Office 828-524-3175**

7. Two programs: the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program, administered through the NC Energy Office (www.energync.net) in the NC Department of Commerce (www.nccommerce.com) helps low-income, energy burdened homeowners and renters in North Carolina improve energy efficiency and maintain warmth in winter and cool comfort in summer. Priority is given to people 60+, adults with disabilities and families with children. To make application:

Call Four Square Community Action 828-321-4475.

8. SSBG – The Social Services Block Grant funding for Housing and Home Improvement is optional per county. Funds may include assistance with: home modifications, minor home renovations or services related to health and safety issues in the home. LIHEAP - The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Block Grant - provides funds for a one-time payment to eligible households to help pay heating bills. CIP - The Crisis Intervention Program–funds heating or cooling related crises. Low income families, persons 65+ and those with disabilities age 18+ may be eligible. (<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss>) CAP-DA Home Modification program can purchase equipment and/or physical adaptations to an individual’s residence to enable the individual to remain with his/her natural, adoptive or foster family or in an inclusive setting, and ensure safety, security and accessibility. This service can pay for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and repair of environmental modifications and equipment (ramps, medical equipment, home renovation, etc.) Consumer must be 18 or older, Medicaid eligible and be approved for Skilled or Intermediate nursing care.

SA/IH - The State/County Special Assistance In-Home Program for Adults provides a cash supplement to help low-income individuals who are at risk of entering an Adult Care Home, and would like to remain at home. Checks are sent monthly to Medicaid eligible individuals living in a private living arrangement as an alternative to placement in an Adult Care Home for individuals who could live at home safely with additional support services and income. The SA In-Home Program may help with living expenses such as food, shelter, clothing and other daily necessities. Contact the Cherokee County DSS 828-837-7455 or review www.ncdhhs.gov/dma

9. a. The Urgent Repair Program is administered by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. Funds must be used exclusively to provide repairs and modifications to alleviate housing conditions which pose an imminent threat to the life or safety of individuals living in the home, or to allow those elderly/disabled persons to remain in their own home independent of institutional confinement. Very low income, owner occupied households who are either/or age 60+, who are disabled, who are single parent households or who live in households of 5 or more may make application to the local Urgent Repair Program Grantee (not available in every county). NC Housing Finance Agency 919-877-5700 can be contacted for the local Grantee name & number or review <http://www.nchfa.com/Homebuyers/HOrepairs.aspx>

b. The Single-Family Rehabilitation Program serves all areas of NC except entitlement cities (see 1 b.) and Wake and Cumberland Counties. Using Federal HOME funds, the program provides between \$200,000 and \$400,000 on a rotation basis, 24-25 counties every 4 years, to local governments, non-profits and regional councils. Single family, owner-occupied, moderately deteriorated homes are eligible for comprehensive rehab whose household income is at or below 80% of AMI. Households must have a fulltime member who is 62 years of age or older or disabled. Contact NC Housing Finance Agency for more information at 919-877-5626. (<http://www.nchfa.com>)

10. The Veterans Administration has a Home Improvements and Structural Alterations program which helps pay for home improvements necessary to provide disability access to/in the home. Veterans who have a disability rating of 50% or more or who are being treated for a service-connected disability may make application at the local VA medical center. (<http://www.appc1.va.gov/directory/guide/region.asp?ID=1006>)

The Housing Resource Guide <http://www.nchfa.com> is a good source for additional agencies.

For further information regarding the above, please contact Nancy Evans with the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) in Raleigh at nancy.evans@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-733-0440 ext 206