

“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

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1-877-843-2123



Rental Unit Accessibility Modification Program

A cooperative program from
Virginia Housing 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—especially in rental housing—is often easier said than done.

Landlords are required by fair housing laws to allow modifications to an apartment or rental house to make it barrier-free to the tenant. However, tenants usually bear the cost of these modifications, which can be substantial. Fortunately, help is available through grants offered by Virginia Housing.



ELIGIBILITY

Individuals with a disability who rent a home and who earn 80% or less of the area median income may be eligible for grant assistance up to \$6,000.

Some accessibility enhancements that the Rental Unit Accessibility Modification (RUAM) grant pays for include:

- Ramps
- Railings
- Tub cuts
- Grab bars
- Remote entry devices
- ADA toilets
- Accessible cabinets

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.
- ✓ Before pictures
- ✓ Verification of your income (usually pay stubs or statement from the Social Security Administration)
- ✓ Agreement signed by the landlord
- ✓ Lease agreement

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. Upon completion of the project, VAIL will submit after photos and a satisfaction survey.

