

# Safe at Home

**Building & Rehabilitating Better  
Homes to Meet the Needs of All  
Ages & Abilities.**

# Universal Design (UD) for All Ages

Definition:

- No-Cost or Low-Cost modifications to improve resident's ability to age in place
- Low-Cost building designs to allow for Aging in Place
- Usable and marketable to people of all ages.

# Why Universal Design-

- > By 2050, 2 billion older persons in the world -- compared with 600 million today. For the first time in world history, older people will outnumber children!
- > Fastest growing population segment - people age 85. Second fastest growing population - those who have celebrated their 100th birthday.
- > Since 1990, roughly 90% of older Americans have stayed in the county they've been living in, if not the very same home!

# Why Universal Design continued ?

- Many people are living in older structures that can be dangerous and contribute to falls and injuries.
- The National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggests that one-third of home accidents can be prevented by modification and repair.
- Home modification can be a key factor in increasing the chances of older people staying independent and injury-free in their own homes and active in their own community for as long as they desire.
- 89 % of survey respondents say they want to remain in their homes.

# Building Using Universal Design Basics

- > **No-step entry**
- > **One-story living**
  - > **Full bathroom on the main floor**
  - > **Bedroom or a room that can be converted**
- > **Wide doorways- 36 inches**
- > **Wide hallways**
- > **Extra floor space**
- > **Blocking behind the walls for future grab bars**
- > **Plumbing behind walls in downstairs bath for future roll in shower if only a half bath.**

# Recommendations and Action Steps for housing.

- > Work to encourage all new housing to incorporate Universal Design features
  - ❖ Mandates-
  - ❖ Incentives-
  - ❖ Building Codes
    - Work with town, county and state decision makers to pass model ordinances, laws and code changes.
    - Work with builders and remodelers to consider Universal Design features when they build new homes or remodel homes for people of all ages and abilities.

# Resources

- > [Model Mandates](#)
- > [Model Incentives](#)
- > [Model Building Codes](#)

[www.docs.google.com](http://www.docs.google.com)

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# Comments and Questions

