

Topic:	Environmental Modification Policy Worker Guide
Date Issued/Updated:	

Overview

The purpose of this worker guide is to review the policies regarding the identification of and eligibility for Environmental Modifications.

In addition to this guide, there are two (2) additional Worker Guides designed to accompany this one. One is intended to highlight the policies and eligibility for Environmental Safety Modifications and the other is intended to highlight the implementation requirements for both modifications.

The difference between the services under Environmental Modifications and Environmental Safety Modifications are that the safety modifications are for the exterior of homes and are available through the waiver. Environmental Modifications are primarily for the interior of the home, with the exception of ramps, which are also covered through the K-plan under Environmental Modifications.

Procedure(s) that apply:

Identification of Environmental Modifications

Environmental Modifications commonly referred to as Home Modifications are physical adaptations made to the interior of an individual's primary residence, with the exception of ramps, intended to:

- Ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual in the home; and/or
- Enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home; and/or
- Replace or decrease direct human assistance.
- As articulated above, exterior ramps likewise are funded through the Home Modifications service element.

These are k-plan services as opposed to the waiver service which funds exterior Environmental Safety Modifications.

Environmental Modifications including but not limited to the installation of products / materials and mechanical, electrical, plumbing and/or structural alterations must be completed by a licensed and qualified contractor or trade professional.

Examples of environmental modifications include but are not limited to:

- Installation of shatter-proof windows and/or safety film;
- Specialized, hardened, waterproof, or padded doors, walls and/or flooring;
- An alarm system for doors or windows;
- Protective covering for smoke alarms, light fixtures, and appliances;
- Installation of ramps, grab-bars, and electric door openers;
- Adaptation of kitchen cabinets and sinks;
- Widening of doorways;
- Handrails;
- Modification of bathroom facilities;
- A room air conditioner (a single window unit) for an individual or child whose temperature sensitivity issues create behaviors or medical conditions that put the individual at risk;
- Installation of anti-slip flooring and/or walkways ;
- Overhead track systems to assist with lifting or transferring;
- Specialized electrical and/or plumbing systems necessary to operate medical equipment and supplies required for the welfare of the individual;
- Adaptations to control lights, heat, stove, etc.
- Tub Cut (converting an existing bathtub into a walk-in tub/shower or roll-in tub/shower rather than remodeling the entire bathroom);
- Installation and set-up of back -up generator to operate critical medical equipment

Eligibility for Environmental Modifications

Eligibility for Environmental Modification is limited to children and adults who are:

- Community First Choice (K-plan) eligible, and
- Enrolled in one of the following service elements:
 - DD49 Adult In-Home services
 - DD51 Supported Living services (if the dwelling is not owned by the provider)
 - DD151 Children In Home services
 - Children's Intensive In-Home Services (CIIS)

Children enrolled in and receiving DD150 Family Support may access Environmental Safety Modifications paid for with General Fund dollars.

Environmental modifications are authorized by service coordinators or personal agents and must be:

- Related to the assessed need as identified in a supplemental assessment; and
- Tied to supporting assessed Activities of Daily Living (ADL) supports or Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) supports and/or health related tasks or behavioral support needs; and
- Identified in the ISP for the individual adult or child.

For details around authorization of the service and information on whether a Funding Review request is necessary or not, review the Modifications Implementation Worker Guide.

Exclusions

Individuals living in a home managed by a 24-hour residential program, living in any type of foster care home, supported living site owned or operated by the provider, assisted living or residential care facility are not eligible for K-Plan funded environmental modifications.

Assistive Devices, Assistive Technology and the installation of Personal Emergency Response Systems are not considered environmental modifications. Refer to the [Assistive Devices and Technology Worker Guide](#) with regard to these items.

Form(s) that apply:

[Oregon ISP](#) and accompanying forms
[Form 0514DD](#) – Request for Funding Review or Exception
[Supplemental Support Documentation](#)

Definition(s):

ADL/IADL: Activities of Daily Living or Instrumental Activities of Living identified in an individual's needs assessment. The OAR definitions ([411-317-0000\(3\)](#) & [411-317-0000\(16\)](#)) can be found at the State of Oregon Secretary of State Website .

Bids: An offer to provide construction services at a certain price. The bid must conform to the applicable requirements set forth in the scope of work such as content, form and timeliness.

Cost Effective: The most efficient and economical service, product, material and/or solution that will address the stated health, safety, or independence need of the individual.

Environmental Modifications (i.e. Home Modifications): The physical adaptations to an individual or family home necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the child or individual in the home or that enable the child or individual to function with greater independence in the home and lead to a substitution for or decrease in direct human assistance to the extent expenditures would otherwise be made for the human assistance.

Funding Review & Authorization Process: Environmental modifications over \$5,000 must be submitted to the ODDS Funding Review Committee and approved by ODDS before work can start. The process for submitting a request and review for authorization can be found in the expenditure guidelines listed in the “Resources” section below.

Invoice: A commercial document issued by a Contractor relating to the transaction indicating the products, work completed and agreed upon price for services provided.

Primary Residence: Primary residence is the legal residence of the individual.

Scope of Work: The written statement of all proposed work requirements for an environmental modification which may include dimensions, measurements, materials, labor, any pertinent building permits and outcomes necessary for a contractor to submit a proposal to complete such work. The scope of work is specific to the identified tasks and requirements necessary to address the needs outlined in the supplemental assessment, referenced in the ISP, and relating to the assessed ADL/IADL needs and health-related tasks of the individual as discussed by the individual, homeowner, service coordinator/personal agent, and ISP team.

Supplemental Support Document: The supplemental support document for K-plan services that helps identify the assessed ADL/IADL that is to be addressed by the environmental modification. The [Supplemental Support Document](#) form can be found on the ODDS tools website.

Reference(s):

Oregon Administrative Rules:

- [411-340-0020](#)

- [411-340-0130](#)
- [411- 330-0020](#)
- [411-308-0020](#)
- [411-308-0120](#)
- Eligibility for environmental modifications for children enrolled in CIIS services are identified in Oregon Administrative Rules [411-300](#), [411-350](#) and [411-355](#)

Code of Federal Regulations:

- [441.520\(b\)\(2\)](#)

Other sources:

- [Community First Choice K-plan](#)

FAQs

Q: The owner of a rental property expects a modified unit be returned to its original condition when the tenant moves out. The tenant cannot afford to pay to return the unit to its original condition and requests a modification that does not require changes to the unit and is a more costly way of addressing the need.

A: In some cases, a modification which requires no change to the physical property that the individual is renting, even if it is the more costly option, may best meet the needs of the individual for the short-term and long-term and reduce the potential long-term costs of multiple home modifications if/when the individual moves to a new property.

Q: Can an individual or family member pay for part of a modification?

A: No. Medicaid requires that total funding is provided by Medicaid funds.

Resources(s):

[In-Home Expenditure Guidelines](#)

[CIIS Expenditure Guidelines](#)

[Oregon Contractor Licensing Search Page](#)

[Environmental Safety Modifications Policy Worker Guide](#)

[Modifications and Environmental Safety Modifications Implementation Worker Guide](#)

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