

Topic:	Environmental Safety 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 *Safety* 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 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 specifically 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 Safety Modifications

Environmental Safety Modifications are physical adaptations made specifically to the exterior of an individual's primary residence with the intent 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.

These are waiver services as opposed to k-plan services which fund Environmental Modifications.

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

Examples of Environmental Safety Modifications include

- Pathways
- Fences

Eligibility for Environmental Safety Modifications

Eligibility for an Environmental Safety Modification is limited to children and adults who are enrolled in a waiver operated by ODDS and enrolled in one of the following service elements:

- DD49 Adult In-Home services for individuals
- DD149 Children's In-Home services for individuals
- DD51 Supported Living services for individuals
- 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 Safety 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 owned or operated by a provider, assisted living or residential care facility are not eligible for Waiver- funded Environmental Safety Modifications.

Assistive Devices, Assistive Technology and the installation of Personal Emergency Response Systems are not considered environmental safety modifications. Refer to the [Assistive Devices](#) 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 Safety Modifications: The physical adaptations that are made to the exterior of the home of an individual or the home of the family of the individual as identified in the ISP for the individual to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the individual or to enable the individual to function with greater independence around the home.

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 In-Home 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 ADL, IADL, and health-related tasks of the individual as discussed by the individual, homeowner, personal agent, and ISP team.

Supplemental Support Document: The supplemental support document for K-plan services that helps identify the 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: I have a child on my case load who has a history of running away. He likes to play in his backyard. His backyard is huge and his family wants a fence that will cover the perimeter of the whole backyard, which is more than 200 linear feet.

A: While an exceptions request can be submitted to ODDS to exceed the 200 linear foot cap for fencing, the case management entity should consider how many linear feet of fencing will meet the child's assessed needs. While the family may want a larger fenced area, Medicaid-funded services must be based on the individual's assessed needs and the cost-effectiveness of the modification to meet those assessed needs.

Resources(s):

[In-Home Expenditure Guidelines](#)

[CIIS Expenditure Guidelines](#)

[Oregon Contractor Licensing Search Page](#)

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Modifications Implementation Worker Guide

Contacts:

Name: Michael Harmon; **Phone:** 503-947-1105; **Email:** michael.a.harmon@state.or.us

Name: Michele Blackwell (CIIS); **Phone:** 503-947-1105; **Email:**
michele.l.blackwell@state.or.us