



Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

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NEWS RELEASE
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HOME ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM

The Home Accessibility Program will help hundreds of low-income seniors and disabled individuals across Illinois afford basic home improvements, and continue to live independently in their own homes. The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) has awarded Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council \$180,000 to help approximately 12 families in Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph Counties.

The program is designed to help disabled individuals and seniors remain independent, live in their own homes, and avoid having to move to nursing homes or other institutions by making necessary accessibility improvements and repairs. For example, installing a ramp, bathroom handrails, or fixing a leaking roof. Accessibility issues are the first priority for this program then other needed repairs will be addressed as funds are available.

Eligible households typically receive \$5000 to \$13,000 of assistance as a five-year forgivable loan for work to their home that addresses accessibility and health, safety and repair concerns.

To qualify for the program, households must have at least one disabled family member or a senior over the age of 60. Household incomes must not exceed 50% of the area median income based on household size. For example; for a family of 2 living in Jackson or Perry counties, the limit is \$23,200, in Randolph County the limit is \$24,750, and in Monroe County the income limit is \$28,150. For a family of 4 living in Jackson or Perry counties, the limit is \$29,000, in Randolph County the limit is \$30,900, and in Monroe County the income limit is \$35,150. There must also be a documented accessibility need for home modifications. Eligible households have to be referred to Western Egyptian from participating agencies funded by the Department of Aging or Department of Human Services and will be assisted on a first come, first served basis after prioritizing their need.

As one of the goals of the program is to coordinate housing resources with other service programs for the elderly and persons living with disabilities, households have to be referred by one of the below agencies. Referrals will be accepted starting May 8, 2017 for a limited time.

- * Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living, call Doug Phillips 618-457-3318
- * LINC, Inc.; call Jon Douglas at 618-317-4028
- * Southern Illinois Case Coordination Services, call Gary Hake at 618-532-4300
- * Shawnee Alliance for Seniors, call Marsha Nelson at 618-985-8322
- * Western Egyptian, call Rob, Michelle or Donna at 618-965-3193

WESTERN EGYPTIAN IS A HUD CERTIFIED HOUSING COUNSELING AGENCY

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