

“One of the first ramps I built for this program was for a gentleman named Earl, and just as I was finishing up, he came rolling down the ramp with a smile on his face and a tear in the corner of his eye. He looked at me, shook my hand and said,

‘Thank you, friend. This is the first time in four years I have been able to get out of my house by myself.’

This has stuck with me and has kept me going all these years.”

- Home Accessibility Carpenter

## PROGRAM PURPOSE

As in the story above, The Ability Center’s *Home Accessibility Program* assists individuals living with disabilities to achieve their independent living goals.

Between 1997 and 2013, using monies from various government funding opportunities, this highly efficient Ability Center program completed 1,177 home accessibility projects.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The various funding sources have different income and residency eligibility requirements.

Depending on funding availability, we can assist individuals in *Lucas, Wood, Ottawa, Henry, Williams, Fulton* and *Defiance Counties* who cannot afford to pay for a ramp or other minor home accessibility modification.

For current funding availability and specific eligibility requirements, please contact the The Ability Center’s *Home Accessibility Manager* at 419.885.5733 or 866.885.5733 • Toll-Free.

## OUR VISION:

We believe in and support equitable and inclusive communities for people living with disabilities.

## OUR MISSION:

To assist people with disabilities to live, work and socialize within a fully accessible community.



## THE ABILITY CENTER

[abilitycenter.org](http://abilitycenter.org)

### SYLVANIA CAMPUS

5605 Monroe Street,  
Sylvania, Ohio 43560

419.885.5733 • Voice/TTY  
866.885.5733 • Toll Free  
419.882.4813 • Fax

### PORT CLINTON OFFICE

1848 E. Perry Street, Ste 110  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

419.734.0330 • Voice/TTY  
877.734.0330 • Toll Free  
419.732.6864 • Fax

### BRYAN OFFICE

1425 E. High Street,  
Bryan, Ohio 43506

419.633.1400 • Voice/TTY  
855.633.1400 • Toll Free  
419.633.1410 • Fax

*The Ability Center is a Center for Independent Living providing Advocacy, Information and Referral, Independent Living Skills training, Community Living and Peer Support services. To achieve its vision, the Center serves the seven counties of northwest Ohio, actively seeks partnerships with community organizations and supports individuals with disabilities and their families as they pursue independence.*

# THE ABILITY CENTER'S



# HOME ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM



Wooden ramp designs are individualized to meet the needs of the recipient and may include new steps and a gate for safety.



In some situations, depending on funder and need, an Aluminum Ramp system may be the best application.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Once the application is completed and income verified, an Ability Center staff member will send a qualification notice.

When it becomes your turn for a project, a licensed, Ability Center-approved carpenter will design your ramp or project to meet appropriate building codes and individual needs. The homeowner and the local building inspection department must also approve the project design before construction can begin.

## WHAT DOES IT COST?

For individuals who meet low to moderate income guidelines established by our state and local funding sources, The Ability Center will provide all materials and labor at no charge.

Other assistance programs may be available for individuals who do not meet low income guidelines. Contact The Ability Center's *Information and Referral Department* to explore options.

## HOW TO APPLY

For an application, individuals with disabilities or family members should contact The Ability Center's *Information & Referral Department* at 419.885.5733.

## FUNDING AND PROGRAM PARTNERS

Funding for this program is ever-changing. Here are a number of current and past sources:

- ODSA/Ohio Housing Trust Fund
- Ohio Department of Medicaid
- The City of Toledo/CDBG
- Lucas County/CDBG
- 84 Lumber
- Area Office on Aging
- Community Partners and Private Donors

## THE ABILITY LOAN PROGRAM

Working in partnership with our agency, the Directions Credit Union developed the *Ability Loan Program*, offering members with disabilities, parents or guardians an affordable financing option for purchasing items that maximize independence. With longer loan terms and discounted interest rates, the *Ability Loan Program* is designed to make purchases more available to everyone.

To learn more, contact Directions Credit Union at: [directionscu.org](http://directionscu.org) or by calling 888.508.2228.

*Membership in Directions Credit Union is open to persons who live, work, worship, attend school or volunteer in Lucas, Wood and Fulton Counties.*



## VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME

The Ability Center welcomes community support to help build and assemble ramps for individuals with disabilities. Anyone 16 or older can volunteer.

We welcome individuals and groups. Ramp Builds usually take one, sometimes two days, and can be a wonderful personal growth or team building opportunity. Encourage your organization to volunteer a team so you can help someone maintain their independence.

If you would like to become involved in this valuable independent living program, please call the Center's *HR/Development Assistant* at 419.885.5733.