

Help for Low-Income Households

Tompkins County Office for the Aging (COFA)

214 W. Martin Luther King Jr./State St.

Ithaca, NY 14850

274-5486 www.tompkins-co.org/cofa

The Office for the Aging assists income-eligible seniors (60+) in identifying and applying for funds for home repairs/modifications and weatherization.

Finger Lakes Independence Center (FLIC)

215 Fifth St., Ithaca, NY 14850

Voice/TTY 272-2433 www.fliconline.org

FLIC offers information & referral for accessible housing, advocacy and other disability issues. Staff can visit your home for consultations, to make suggestions for improving building accessibility and to review architectural plans prior to construction.

Better Housing for Tompkins County

950 Danby Rd., Suite 102, Ithaca, NY 14850

273-2187 www.betterhousingtc.org

Better Housing offers several programs to income eligible households. Their home repair program for senior or disabled homeowners provides small home repairs and modifications, charging only for the materials. They can repair stairs, install handrails, grab bars, comfort-height toilets, walk-in showers, install light switches, do other minor electrical projects, and patch loose flooring (tripping hazards). The *Access to Home Program* provides funding for safety and comfort measures for low-to-moderate income disabled homeowners or those living with a disabled family member. Home accessibility improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Ramps, lifts, handrails, stair glides, doorway access
- Roll-in showers, grab bars and seats
- Easy-to-reach kitchen work and storage areas
- Modifications for the visually and hearing impaired
- Placement of bathroom or bedroom on the first floor
- Special thermostatic and environmental controls

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS)

115 W. Clinton St., Ithaca, NY 14850

273-2453 www.ithacanhs.org

Repair grants and deferred loans are available for people who need important, basic repairs but can't afford to make loan payments, provided they meet income guidelines. The SHARP (Small Home Repair Program) is the only program, at this time, which is limited to serving City of Ithaca residents. It is open to persons, who are 62+, disabled, or single head of household. SHARP repairs can include stairs and handrails, grab bars, minor repairs to porches and flooring, sidewalks (tripping hazards), lighting, and light switches.

Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation

935 East Ave., Suite 300, Rochester, NY 14607

585-657-4114 www.sheenhousing.org

Sheen Housing assists families, seniors, and persons with disabilities who need housing repair assistance to maintain their residences, elevate their quality of life and eliminate threats to their health and safety. Emergency Home Repair grants are subject to family size and household income guidelines. Sheen Housing also provides *Access to Home* grants to fund accessibility modifications for persons with disabilities.

U.S.D.A. Rural Development

1 N. Main St., Cortland NY 13045 753-0851, ext. 4

www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-R_Loans_Grants.html

(Serves several counties in this region including Tompkins)

Rehabilitation Loans and Grants: the *Very Low Income Housing Repair Program* provides loans and grants to low-income homeowners, age 62+, to repair or improve their dwellings or to remove health and safety hazards.

Community Faith Partners

P.O. Box 4774, Ithaca, NY 14851

347-4393 (Jim Crawford) www.communityfaithpartners.org

Helps widows, older people, single moms and persons with special needs maintain the physical condition of their homes and avoid costly repairs through timely advice, congregation-based assistance, and referral to professionals. When assistance is requested, a designated coordinator visits the site, together with someone from their congregation, to assess the issues. Services are offered two times per year, usually in May and September. Jobs, limited to four to six hours, are done by college students and local volunteers.