



Department of Housing and Community Development

Essential Home and Accessibility Repair Program (EHARP) Frequently Asked Questions

EHARP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- 1) To complete minor repairs to housing units occupied by low-income persons, and to remove imminent health and safety hazards.
- 2) To make necessary adaptations and/or improvements to housing units occupied by low-income persons with disabilities.

Q: What can EHARP fund?

A:

EXAMPLES OF ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

Essential Repairs

- Structural hazards (i.e., leaking roof, rotted or unsafe floors, ceilings, walls, stairs, etc.)
- Electric and other fire hazards
- Roof repair/replacement
- Repair/replacement of heating systems
- Repair/replacement of air conditioning systems
- Water sources, plumbing (includes main water line which may include branch lines and well pump repair or replacement) and sewer/septic repairs

Accessibility Repairs *

- Wheelchair ramps
- Hand railings, grab bars
- Kitchen and bathroom modifications
- Doorway widening

* *ALL Accessibility Repairs MUST be made in compliance with current ADA Standards.*

EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Use of EHARP funds for local service provider administrative costs
- Purely cosmetic repairs
- Repairs made on a unit owned entirely or in part by the Local Administrator
- Repairs made to storage sheds, outbuildings or other non-dwelling units
- Repairs made to driveways or other means of ingress and egress which cannot be defined as an accessibility improvement.

Q: What is the maximum amount of assistance?

A: \$4,000

Q: Maximum assistance is \$4,000 (EHARP funds) but is there a maximum job cost?

A: There is no maximum job cost IF other funds can be leveraged above and beyond the \$4,000.00 from EHARP.

Q. What if the job exceeds \$4,000, there are no other resources and the situation is extremely urgent?

A: DHCD will consider requests where there are extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis. Under no circumstances should a local administrator start a job expecting EHARP funding without prior DHCD approval.

Q. Do dwellings have to be occupied in order to receive EHARP funding?

A: Yes. Vacant units are not eligible.

Q: How long will it take DHCD to approve or deny an application once it has been submitted by the local administrator to DHCD?

A: We make every attempt to respond to local administrators request within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays when the office is closed.)

Q: If I received EHARP assistance a few years ago for a roof leak and now my bathroom floor is giving way under the toilet, can I apply again?

A: If you have an eligible essential repair, the local administrator has funds available and you still meet the income requirements, you can apply.

Q. I am a single mom with two kids and I need some help but I heard this program is only for elderly people. Is that true?

A: No, program eligibility is based on essential need and income – age is not priority.

Q. I need a wheelchair ramp. Can I apply for this money?

A. There is a small pot of money specifically for accessibility improvements. You must still meet the income requirements.

Q. I don't see my locality on the list of local administrators. Who do I contact?

A. Not all areas of the state are covered by the program. Entitlements areas (metropolitan areas) are not eligible. Contact your local housing agency to see if other resources are available.