**Resources for Housing and Home Renovations for Accessibility**

**HUD, Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8:** The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Eligibility for a housing voucher is determined by the **Public Housing Agencies (PHA)** based on the total annual gross income and family size and is limited to US citizens and specified categories of non-citizens who have eligible immigration status. In general, the family's income may not exceed 50% of the median income for the county or metropolitan area in which the family chooses to live. By law, a **PHA** must provide 75 percent of its vouchers to applicants whose incomes do not exceed 30 percent of the area median income. The **PHA** serving your community can provide you with the income limits for your area and family size.

To find out how to apply, visit this link;

<https://www.hud.gov/topics/housing_choice_voucher_program_section_8>

**The MD Department of Disabilities Home Modifications**: Modiﬁcations such as grab bars in showers, lowered kitchen counters, wider doorways, and ramps can help people with disabilities continue to live in their own home.

Please note that if you are a renter, many landlords are required by law to make reasonable accommodations to the building's policies to help you live in your building. They may also be required to allow you to make reasonable adjustments inside your living space at your expense. For more information on home modifications, a directory to find local contractors, ADA guidelines and information about landlords' home modiﬁcation legal responsibilities visit this link;

<http://mdod.maryland.gov/housing/Pages/Home-Modifications.aspx>

**The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)** can also assist with housing for the applicant and, in some cases, their families as well.  These are provided on a priority list for those who may experience homelessness.  This process takes time, but may assist in accessing other resources, such as funding for modifications to your home.

**DDA’s** ***Housing Mission***; To develop quality, aﬀordable, accessible housing for people (& their families) with disabilities in safe locations where they can access support services, transportation, employment and recreation throughout their lifespan.  This is done primarily through advocacy.

Here is the **DDA Project Rental Assistance Applicant Brochure**:

<https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Housing.aspx>

**DDA** has many resources for your child (& your family). However, your child must apply to DDA and be found eligible. To explore these resources click on the following link;

DDA website;

<https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/home.aspx>

The ﬁrst step in this **process is to apply for eligibility**. It’s very important to apply for eligibility so that your child is ‘in the system” early on, as there is a priority and wait list that can be many years long. Approval of eligibility will allow your family and child access to multiple other resources, services, and agencies. To begin this process, follow this ink;

<https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Documents/dda_ea_application_updated.pdf>

For assistance in navigating the websites listed above or help in completing applications for these services, please contact Paige Roemer, MSB Social Worker at [paiger@mdschblind.org](mailto:paiger@mdschblind.org) or Renee Kirby, MSB Parent Coordinator at [reneek@mdschblind.org](mailto:reneek@mdschblind.org) .