Home Renovation for Older Adults

Almost 90% of people age 65 and over would like to remain in their homes and communities as long as possible. As we age, many of us will experience temporary or long-term functional challenges, but small to moderate modifications to a home can help navigate them. It’s often less expensive than moving or senior living alternatives.

**Simple Adjustments**
- Devices like Alexa or Google Home pair with in-home monitoring services and may have alerts for burglary, fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Many of these devices can sync up with smart phones to call loved ones if a person needs help.
- Install lever-style door handles, which are easier to grip for people who have arthritis or other conditions that limit motion.
- Install grab bars in bathrooms and other strategic areas to help prevent slips and falls.
- Remove anything that could be a trip hazard in the home, including rugs, cords, cluttered furniture, and other items that create a challenging walking path.

**Larger Projects**
- Install a walk-in shower with grab bars and a slip-resistant sitting area.
- Add a wheelchair ramp. Additionally, an elevator or chairlift that attaches to the stairs may help older adults move between floors.
- Adjust countertops to stand at an accessible 30 inches off the floor to make them easier to use for someone using a wheelchair or scooter.
- If doorways are narrow, consider expanding them to accommodate a wheelchair or other mobility device.

For information about home modifications and renovations for aging in place: