

Older South Amherst residents can apply to have a wheelchair ramp and bathroom safety bars in showers and toilets in their home for free under a grant offered by the Lorain County Office on Aging.

The "Home Modification Program" is designed to "keep older citizens in their homes" by offering thousands of dollars in upgrades at no expense to the homeowner.

The program is funded by a federal grant combined with a local grant and is now available on a first come basis to Lorain County residents over the age of 60. The program will be offered until the funds run out. It is not available to house renters or apartment dwellers.

Project Coordinator John Slatcoff said the money for the work will be available "until the grant runs out." He said the grant was in excess of \$800,000.

"The ramps will be installed at the homes, these usually cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000," he said. "We will also install grab bars for toilets and other bathroom accessories to make them safer."

Slatcoff said anyone interested in applying for the program should call his office at 440-326-4800 and arrange for an inspection. ^{OR 406-3337}