



Laying a Foundation: Building Blocks from State Unit on Aging and Area Agency on Aging Home Modification Surveys

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Agenda



- **Background**
- **Role of State Units on Aging in Home Modification & Repairs**
- **Role of Area Agencies on Aging in Home Modification & Repairs**
- **Building Blocks of SUAs & AAAs**
 - **Service Delivery Solutions and Funding Source Innovations**
 - **Collaborations & Partnerships**
 - **Opportunities for Change: Building Capacity**
- **Questions and Discussion**

Aging in Place: The Role of the Home



- Most people want to stay in their homes as they age
- Home = delivery site for caregiving, home and community-based services
- A home's condition impacts person's ability to care for themselves, and providers' ability to deliver care
- Especially important with COVID-19



Aging-Accessible Homes

How many of the 21.5 million homes with an adult age 65 and over have accessible features?



Older adults with a disability (Ages 65 and over)

Difficulty bathing or dressing

Women 10%

Men 7%

Difficulty walking

Women 26%

Men 19%

Disabled older adults without accessibility features in their homes (Ages 65 and over)

Older adults with difficulty using the bathroom

79% Live in a home without accessible bathroom features
21% Live in a home with accessible bathroom features

Older adults with difficulty walking or climbing stairs

26% Live in a home without bedroom and bathroom on first floor
74% Live in a home with bedroom and bathroom on first floor

Housing Does Not Support Aging



- **28%** of 65+ households have at least 1 person who has difficulty using some element of the home (e.g., climbing stairs, using bathtub)
- **10%** of housing units are “aging ready,” with a step-free entryway, bedroom and full bathroom on 1st floor, and at least 1 bathroom accessibility feature
- **Unmet housing needs** are especially common among older households that are low-income

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 (Data from American Housing Survey, 2011)

What is Home Modification and Repair?



Change the environment



Remove Fall Hazards



Add Supportive Features



Change Behavior

Examples:

- Remove Clutter, Throw Rugs
- Rearrange Furniture
- Improve Lighting
- Handrails
- Grab Bars
- Hand-Held Shower
- Tub Bench/Shower Seat
- Zero-Step Shower
- Repairs

Importance of Home Modification and Repair



- Integral to aging in place as health, abilities change
- Make daily activities easier
- Reduce falls, injuries
- Support home and community-based service delivery, caregivers
- Cost effective/save \$



Barriers to Home Modification and Repair



- Lack of coordination
- Inadequate funding
- Complexity of funding
- Shortage of home modification services and trained professionals
- Lack of awareness among consumers



Promoting Aging in Place by Enhancing Access to Home Modifications

Goal: Maximize older adults' ability to age in place by increasing the availability and awareness of home modifications

www.homemods.org/acf

Funded by:



Partners:



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Develop A Knowledge Base: Environmental Scan

Ongoing data collection process documenting and sharing home modification activities at the local and state levels

The Home Modification Information Network →

Welcome to the **Alabama Home Modification and Repair Resources Page!** On this State Resources page, you will find resources for consumers and professionals specific to Alabama, including featured programs, funding sources, home modification and repair providers by city, and educational materials!


We'd love your feedback! Click on this [Link](#) to answer some quick questions about this page.

Alabama


Listing by State & City

- [Alabama](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Arizona](#)
- [Arkansas](#)
- [California](#)
- [Colorado](#)
- [Connecticut](#)
- [Delaware](#)
- [District of Columbia](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Georgia](#)
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HOME MODIFICATION IN ALABAMA




Spotlight on State and Local Activities
Learn about featured home modification and repair programs and policies in this state.



Funding Sources
Access information on your state and local funding sources as well as national programs that may be used to pay for home modification and repairs.



Local Providers by City
Find public and private home modification and repair service providers in your area.



Educational Materials
Learn more about home modifications through fact sheets, videos, and other resources that are helpful to both consumers and professionals.

Survey of State Units on Aging



Home Modification and Repairs for Older Adults: Challenges and Opportunities for State Units on Aging

Summer 2020

KEY FINDINGS

- Nearly all State Units on Aging (94%) reported engaging in home modification and repair efforts.
- About 86% of State Units on Aging have home modification and repair funding.

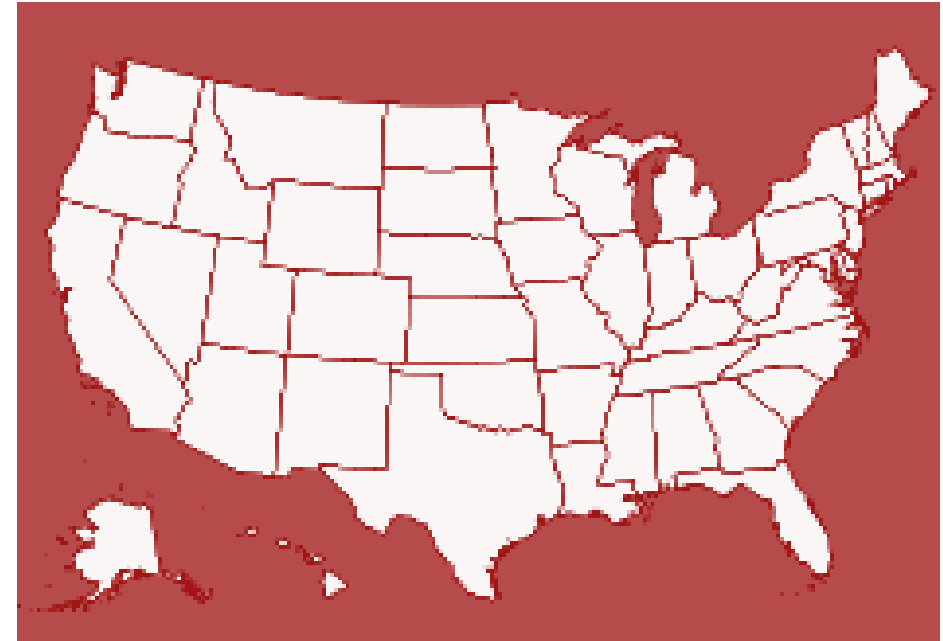




Develop a Knowledge Base: Survey of State Units on Aging Home Modification and Repair Efforts

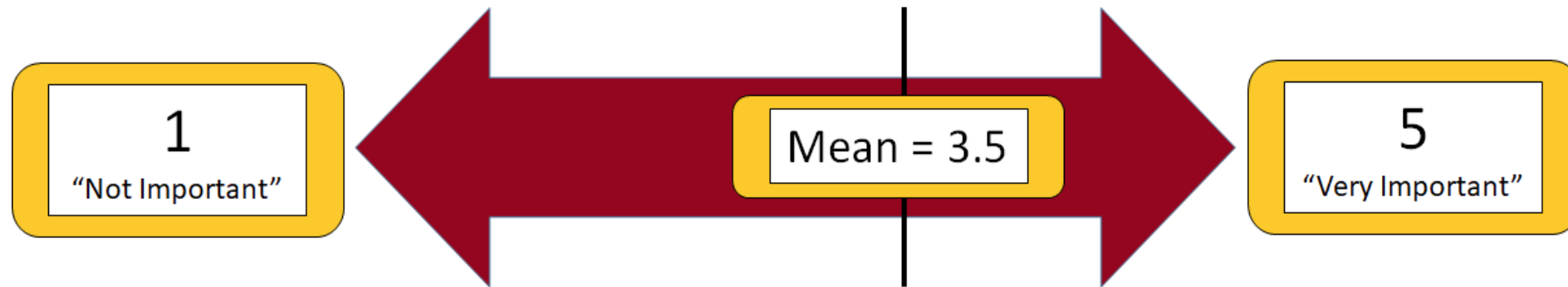
50 of 56 State Units on Aging
responded (89% response rate)

10-question open and close-
ended email survey to SUA
Directors





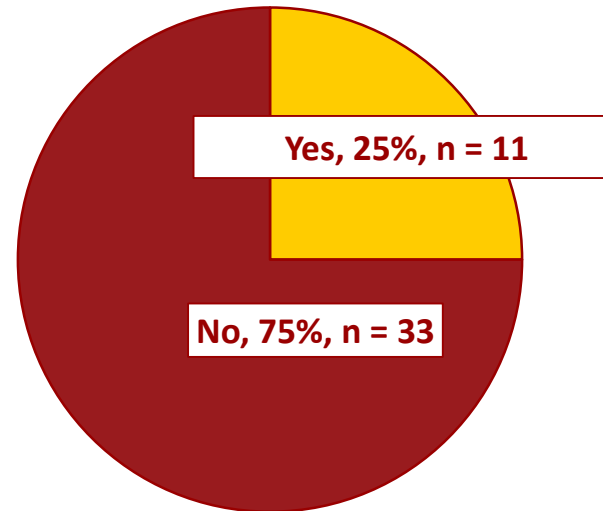
Level of Importance Placed on Home Modification and Repair Activities by SUAs



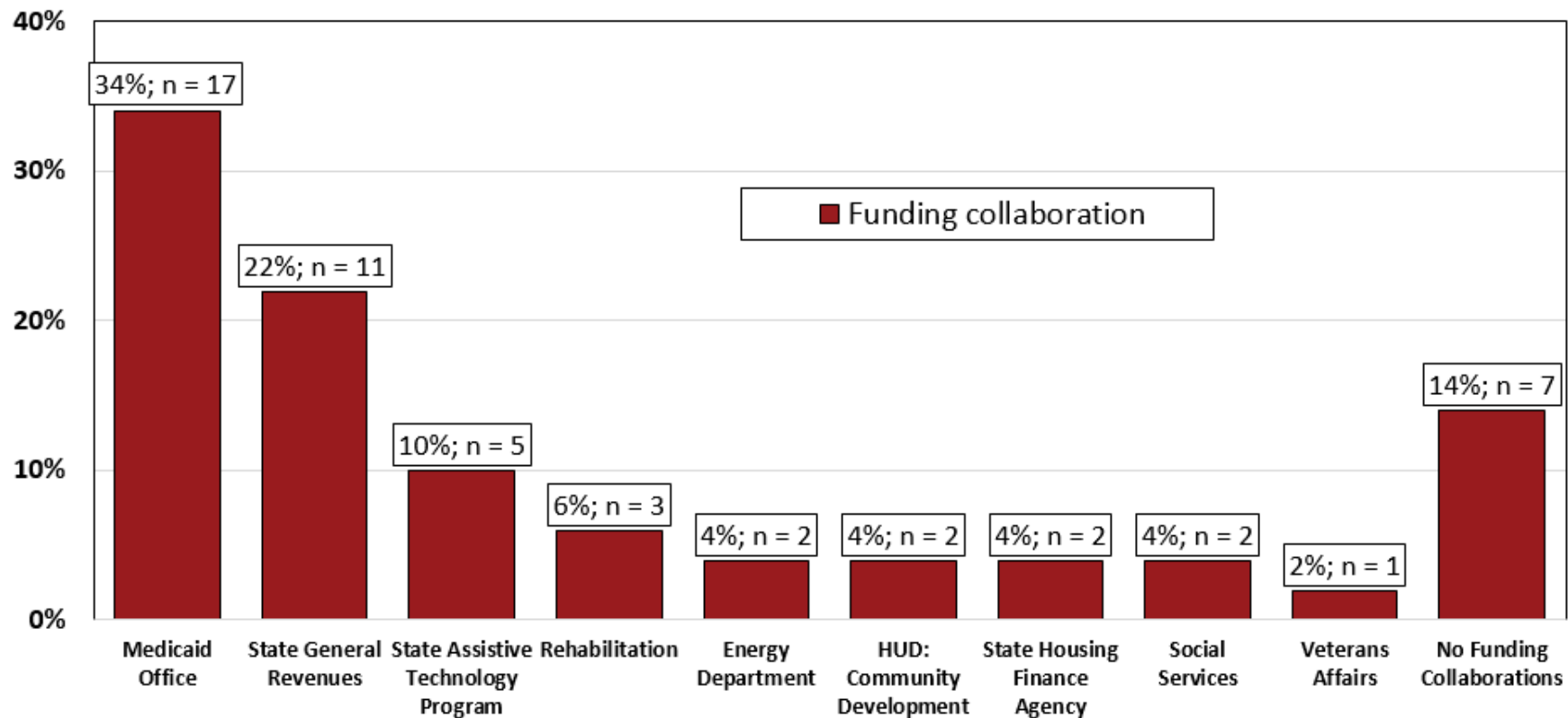


Older Americans Act and Home Modification and Repair

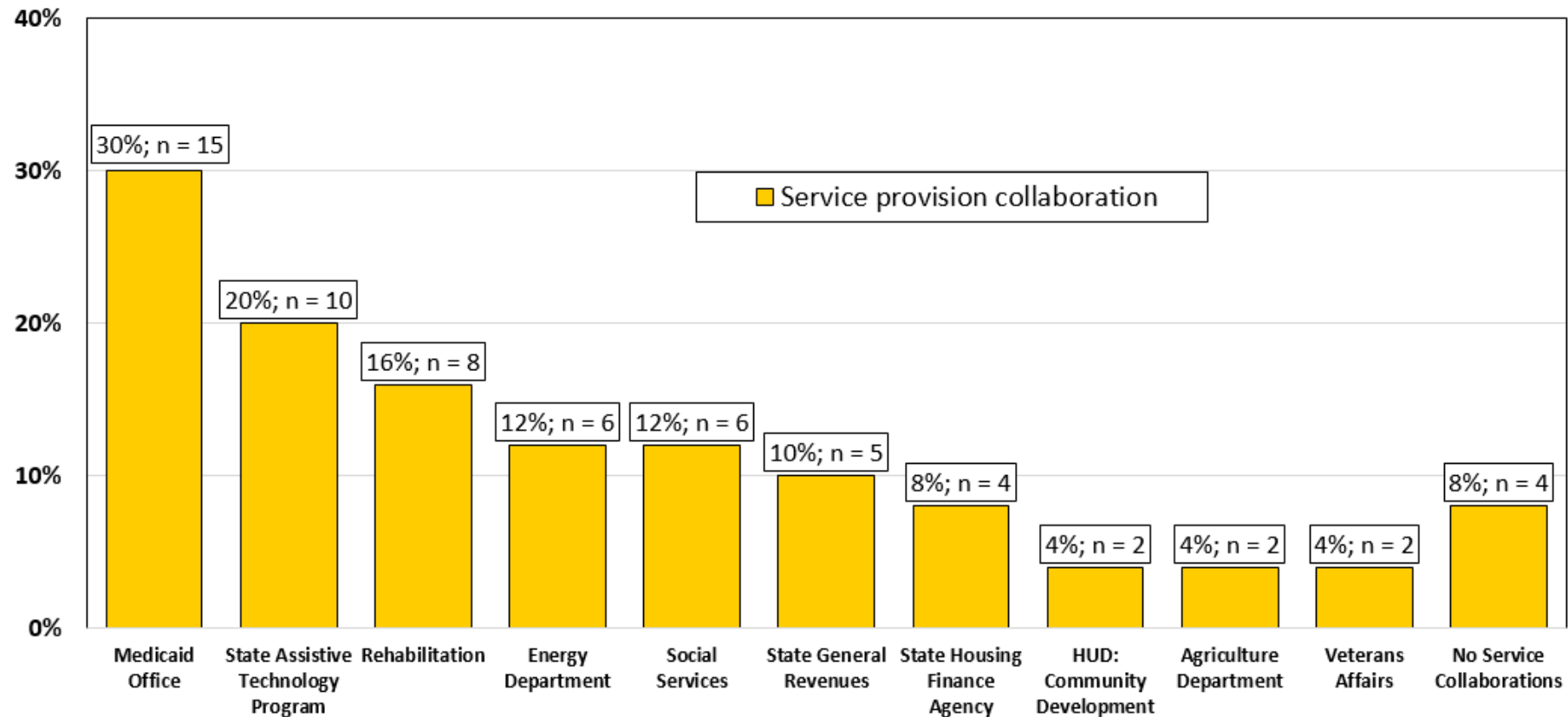
State Unit on Aging
Allocates/Designates Older Americans Act Title III-B Funds (N = 44)



Collaboration by SUAs for Home Modification and Repairs: Funding

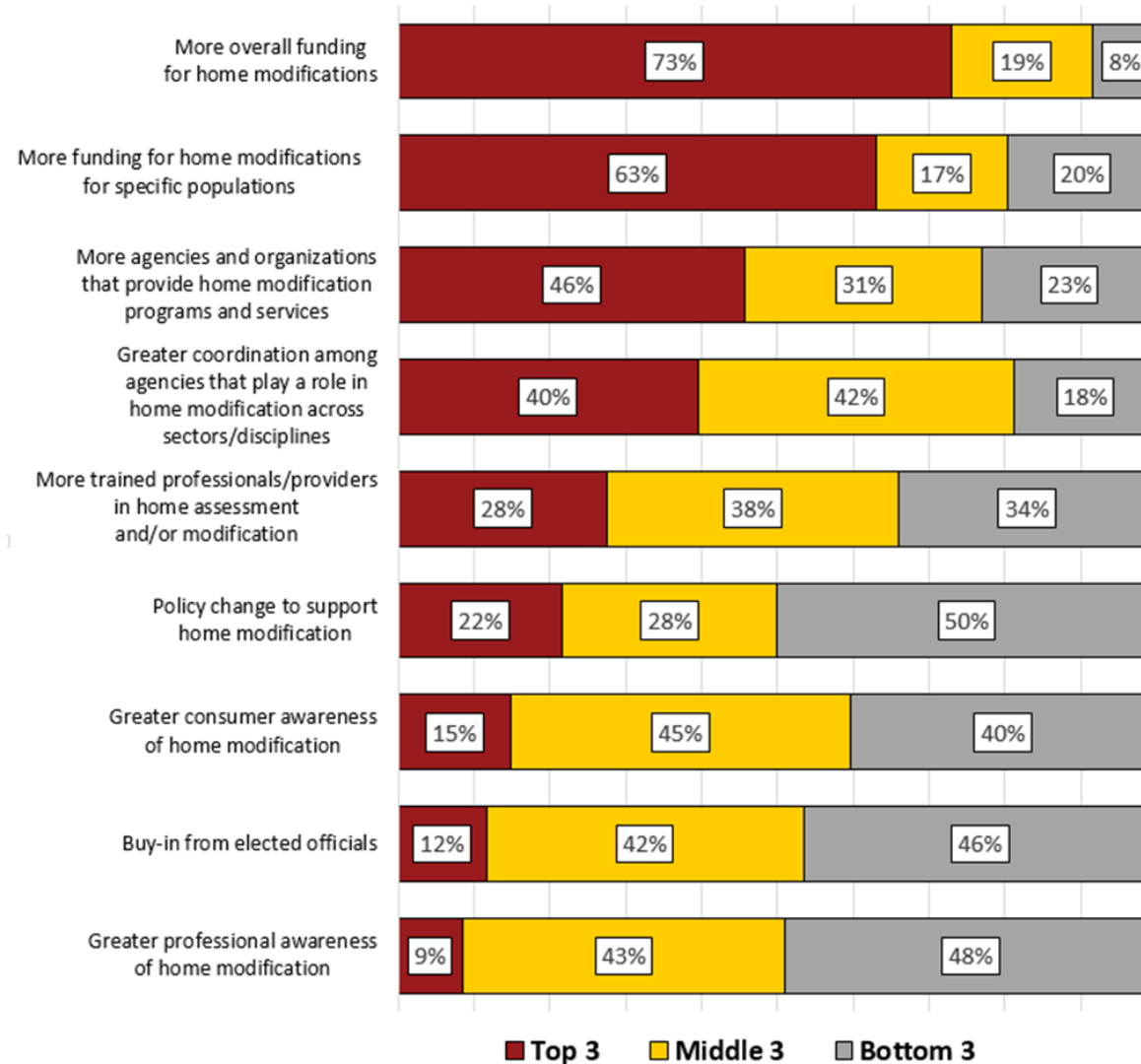


Collaboration by SUAs for Home Modification and Repairs: Service Provision





Home Modification and Repair Related Needs Identified by SUAs



Survey of Area Agencies on Aging



Building Community Capacity to Serve Older Adults: The Role of Area Agencies on Aging in Home Modifications and Repairs

A Data Brief of the 2019 National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging



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Develop a Knowledge Base: Area Agencies on Aging Home Modification and Repair Efforts



- Home modification and repair survey questions created by USC and n4a
- Added to the 2019 National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging conducted by n4a in partnership with Scripps Gerontology Center
- Response rate: 78.5% or 485 of the 618 AAAs responding to the overall survey

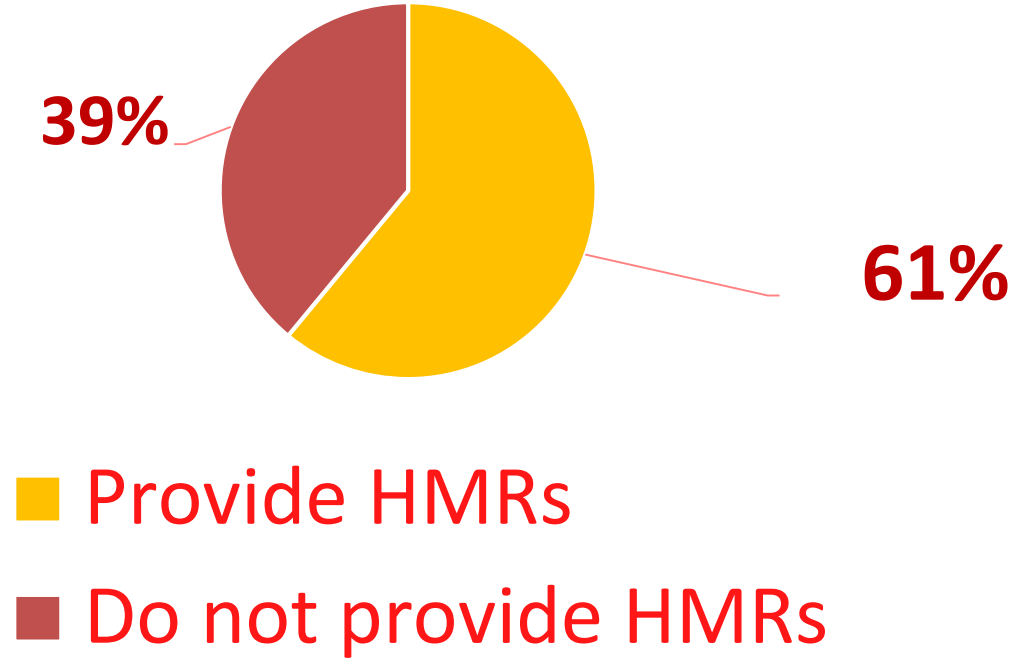


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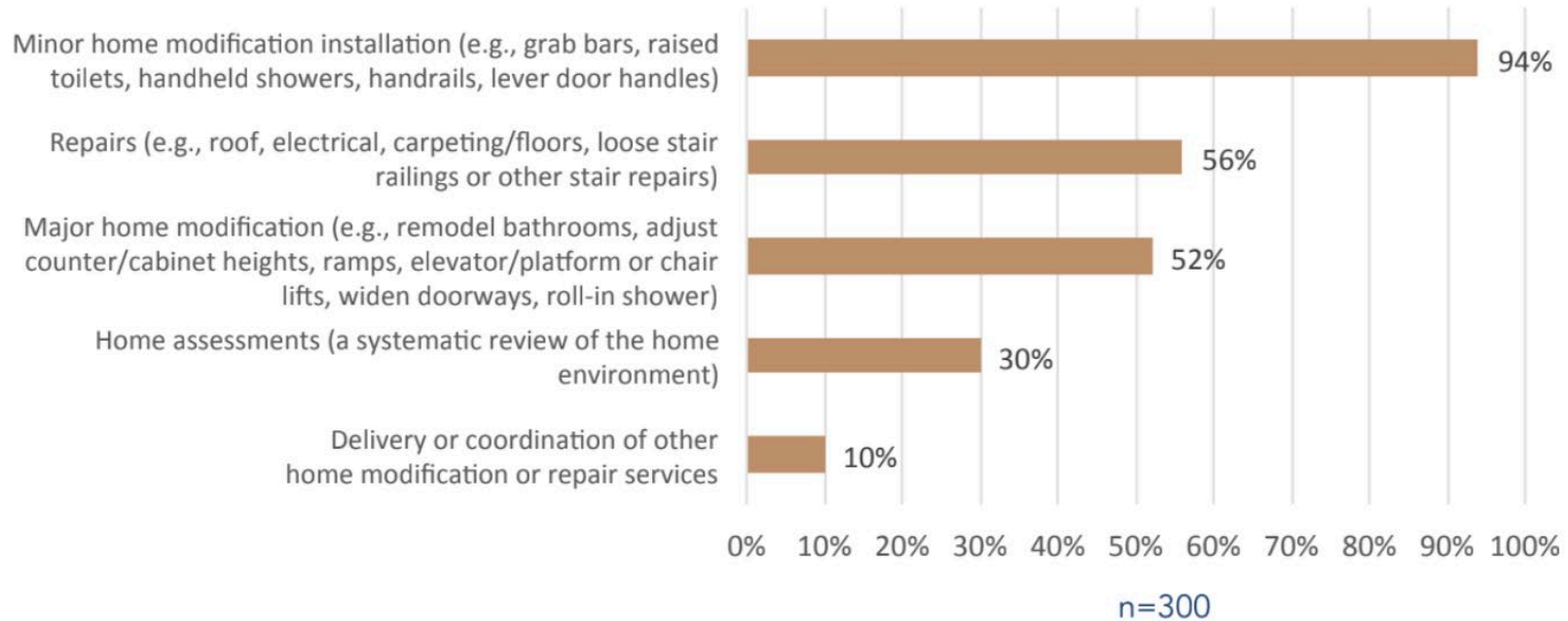
How many AAAs indicate providing home modifications or repairs?



Home Modification and Repair Services Provided by AAAs



Which of the following services does your home modification or repair program deliver and/or coordinate? Check all that apply.



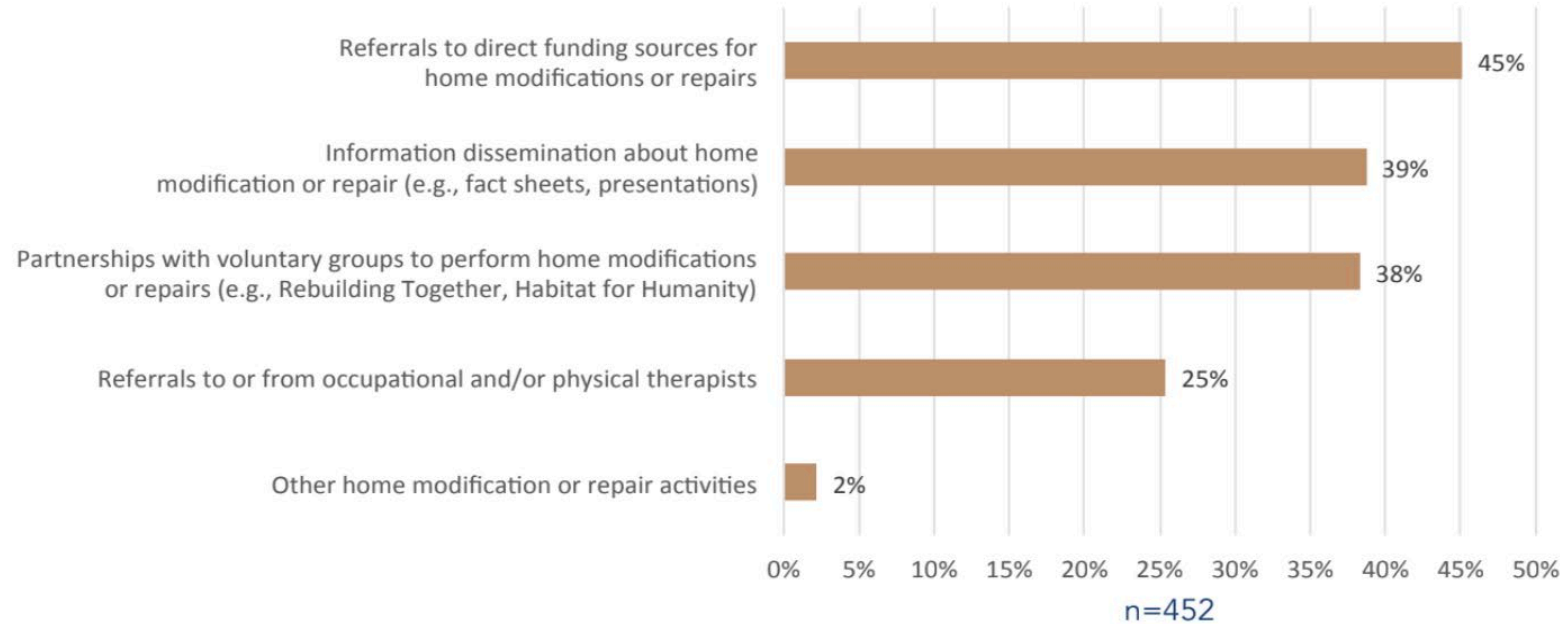
“AAA Case Management staff does a home assessment and determines work that can be done by various volunteer groups”

“We have our own home modification department”

AAA Involvement in Other Home Modification or Repair Activities



Is your AAA involved in other home modification or repair activities?



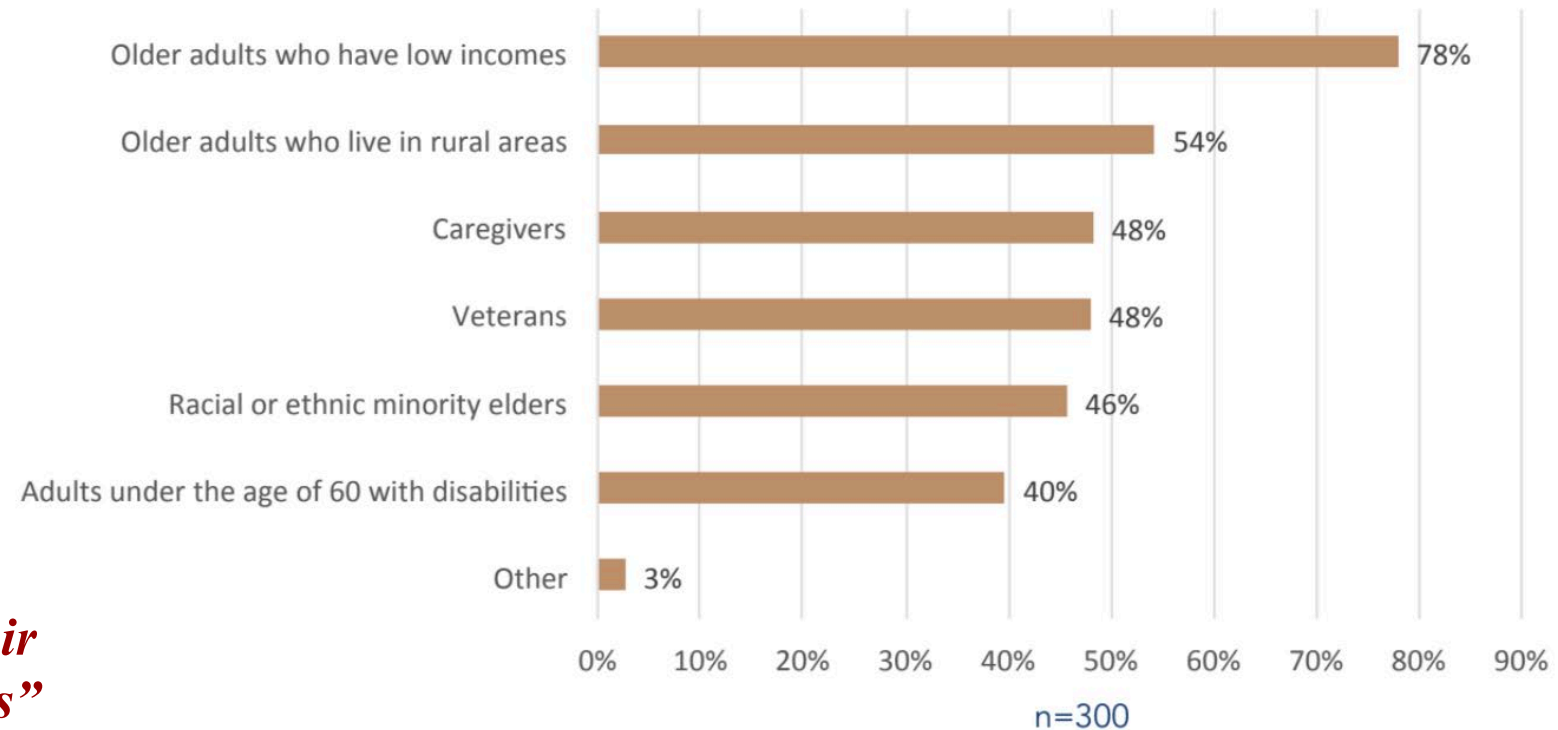
“When we identify a need, we will work with partners in the community to resolve problems... work with Rotary clubs, private contractors, etc...”

“We teach about issues that can prevent falls, appropriate lighting, cord management, removing slip rugs, etc.”

Groups Served by Home Modification and Repair Services



In addition to older adults age 60+, do your home modification or repair services specifically address the needs of any of the following groups?

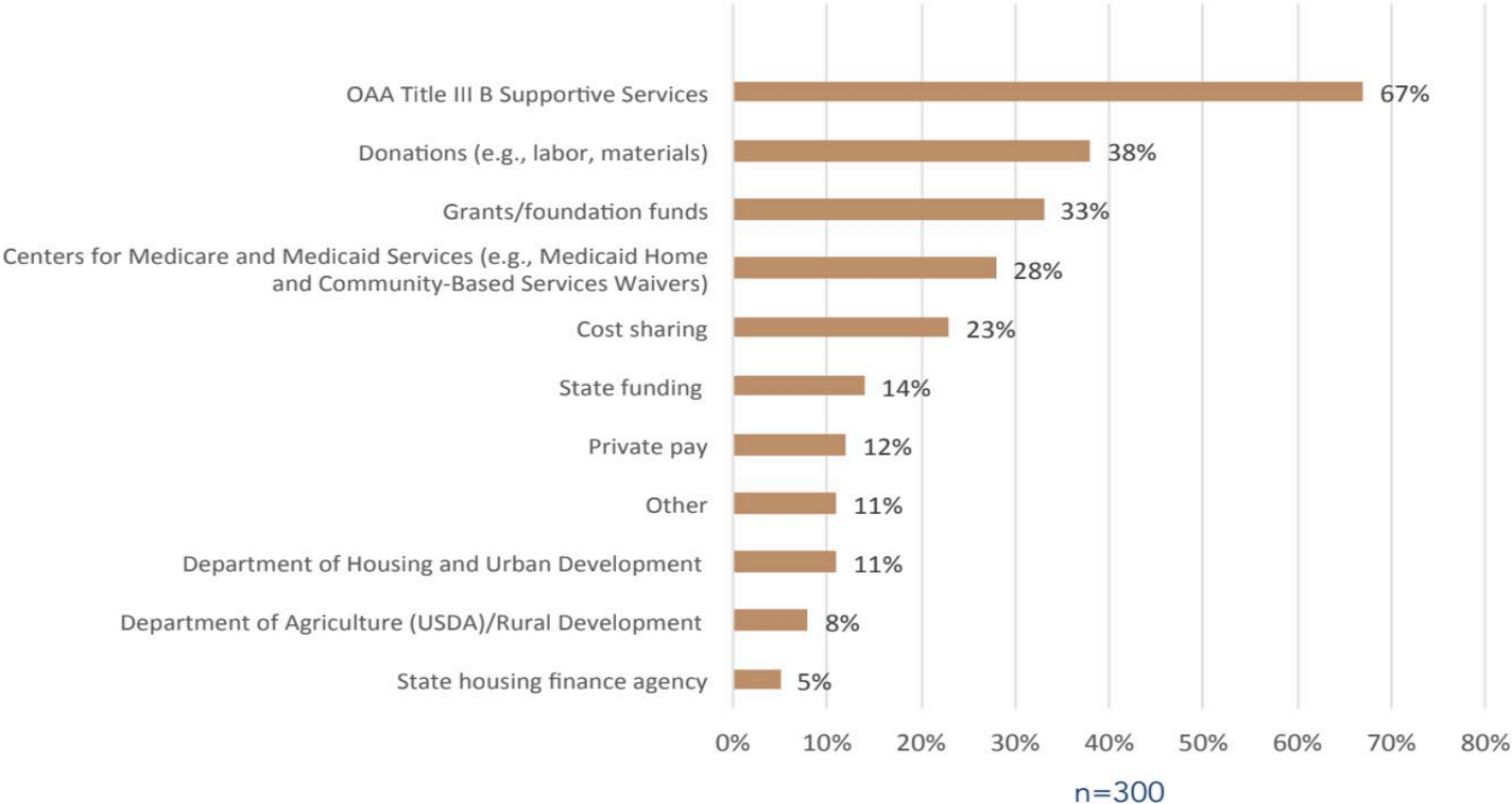


“We build wheelchair ramps for caregivers”

Most Common Funding Sources for Home Modification & Repair Programs



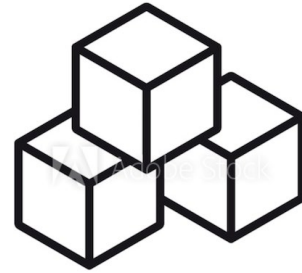
Which of the following funding sources are used by your AAA to deliver or coordinate these home modification or repair services? Check all that apply.



Funding Source Referrals



- **88%** → Weatherization Assistance Programs
- **62%** → Other nonprofits (e.g., Habitat for Humanity or Rebuilding Together)
- **62%** → City/county housing community development depts
- **59%** → Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers



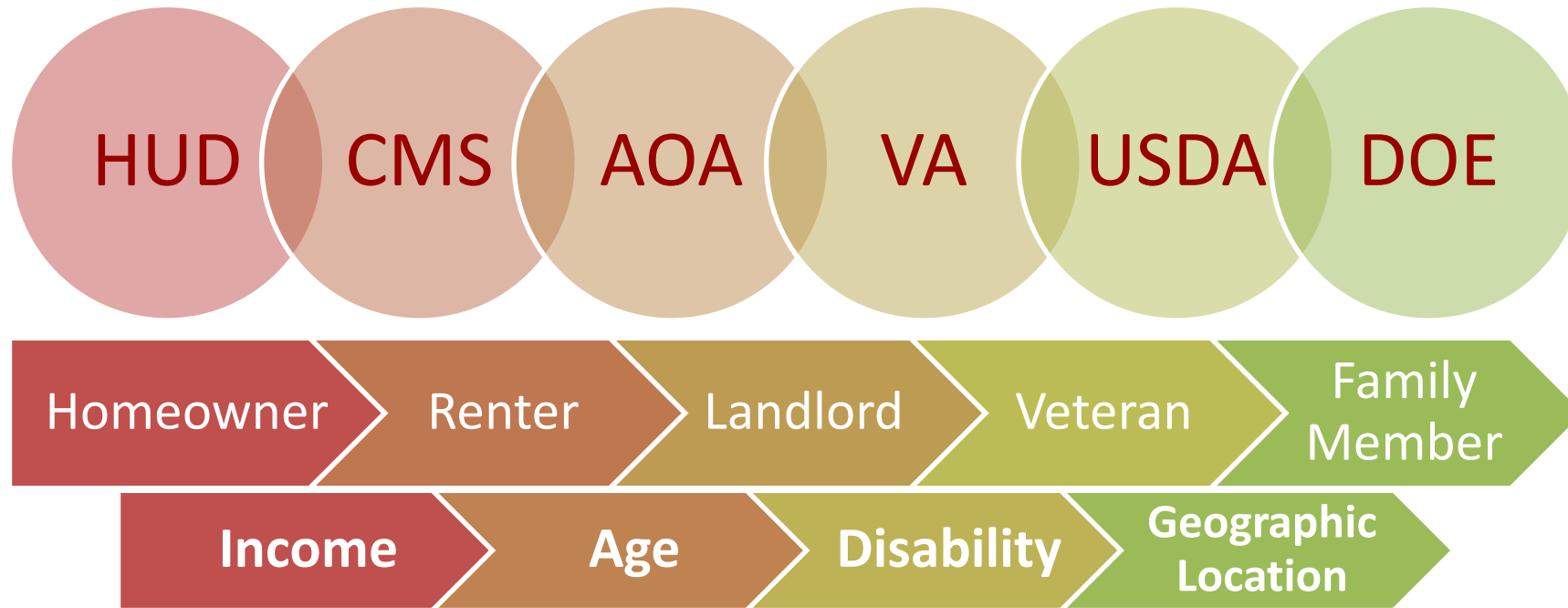
Building Blocks of State Units on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging in Home Modification and Repair

**Service Delivery and Funding
Sources:**

Lessons from the Field



Complexity in Funding & Service Delivery



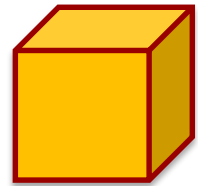


Service Delivery Process





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

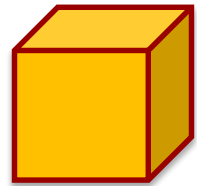


Integrating home modification and repair services within home and community-based care and/or long-term care programs





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

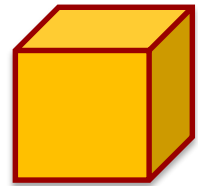


Directly administering or funding home modification and repair programs





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

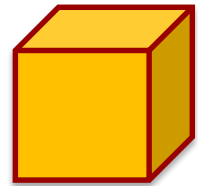


Raising awareness of the value and importance of home modification and repair to consumers





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

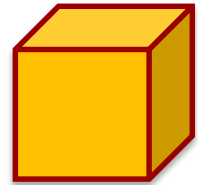


Incorporating specific home modification and repair goals/strategies into state and local plans to support funding and services

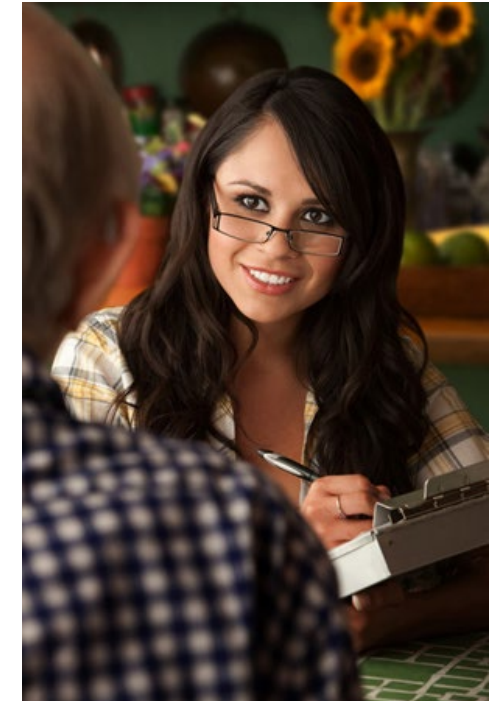




Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

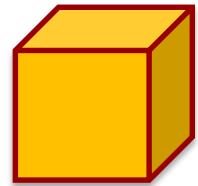


Prioritizing Older Americans
Act Funding, Title III-B and Title III-E





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

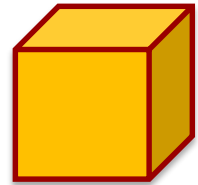


Targeting older adults
most at-risk (e.g., transition
programs)





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks

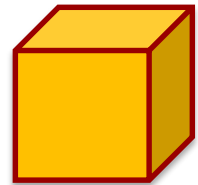


Seeking New/Different Potential Funding Sources and Service Providers for Home Modification and Repairs





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks



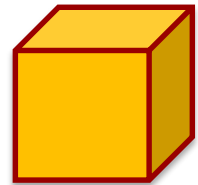
Advocating to get home modification and repairs integrated into state and local general funds

**STATE
BUDGET**





Service Delivery and Funding Source Building Blocks



Learning about and incorporating state-of-the-art funding and service delivery strategies



Evidence-Based Building Blocks: Community Aging in Place, Advancing Better Living for Elders (CAPABLE) Program



Targets:

older adults who have at least one activity of daily living difficulty and who are cognitively able to identify goals in self-care

Client-directed

Team: RN + OT + Handyperson

Focus on functioning



Home Modification Service Delivery and COVID-19



- Increased fall risks
- Reduced access to primary care and wellness checks
- Reduced caregiver support
- Emotional health, diet, exercise, and cognitive stimulation
- Older people staying with family members in unsupportive homes



Creative and Alternative Home Modification Service Delivery Approaches During COVID-19

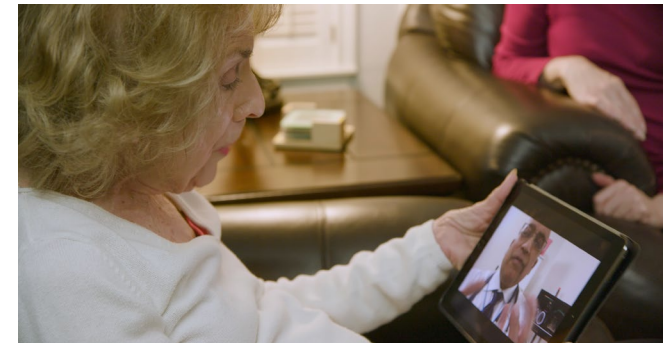


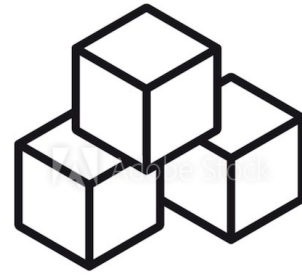
Initial contact should determine: a) the level of urgency and work to be done now versus in safer times; b) number of residents in the household and their needs while work takes place; and c) the physical set-up of the home

No Contact/Low Tech: Phone assessment plus photos of the home areas; delivery; telephone follow-up

Minimal Contact: Phone or video assessment of home areas and client performing related activities; minor modifications made during one visit; telephone follow-up

Full Contact: Phone or video assessment of home areas and client performing related activities; major modifications made during multiple visits; follow-up visit one month later



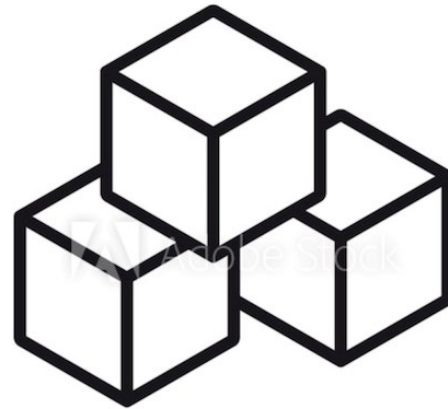


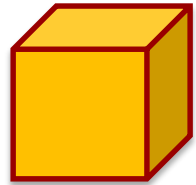
Building Blocks of State Units on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging in Home Modification and Repair:

Collaboration, Partnerships, and Opportunities for Change

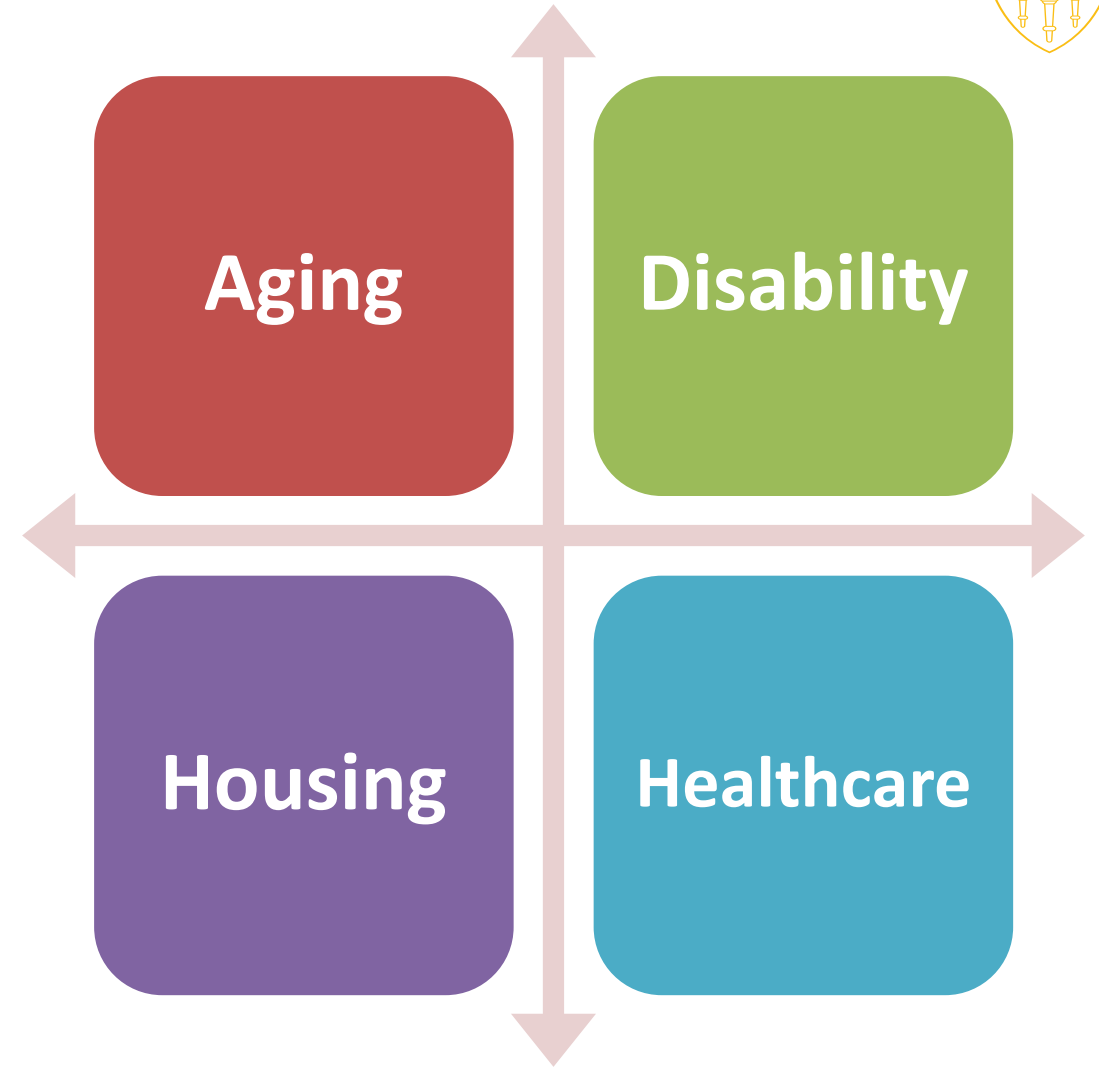


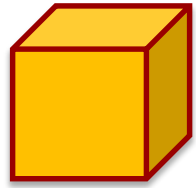
Collaborations and Partnerships for Home Modification and Repairs





Coordination Across Sectors Required



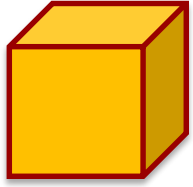


Common Collaborators



Departments or/Programs:

- Rehabilitation
- Medicaid
- Weatherization
- Assistive Technology
- Housing Finance Agencies
- and more...



Referral Access Channels: Examples



Aging Sector

- Area Agency on Aging or Title VI – Eldercare Locator
- Senior Centers

Disability Sector

- Independent Living Centers
- Assistive Technology Programs

Voluntary Sector

- Rebuilding Together
- Habitat for Humanity

Housing Sector

- City/County Housing and Community Development Departments

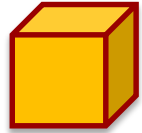
Health Care Sector

- Home health agencies

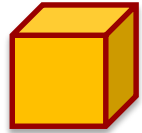
USC Resources

- Home Modification Information Network (programs, providers, funding sources by state)

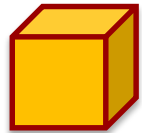
Collaborative Activities



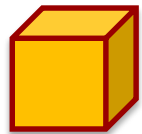
Advocate to increase policies and/or services



Educate/train professionals



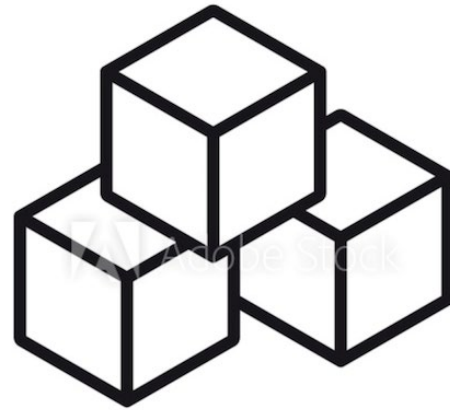
Task Forces/coalitions for planning

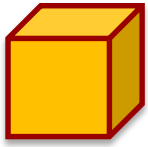


Jointly administer programs



Opportunities for Change: Building Capacity





Shared Perspectives

Reported by The Aging Network



1. Funding Needs	Challenges associated with inadequate funding for HMR initiatives pervade. Example: “Due to the cost of major modifications, such as a ramp, the funding provided by the OAA cannot support many of these services.”
2. Awareness & Training	There is a need to raise awareness and offer training/support for staff who provide home modification and repairs. Example: “Many of the case managers appear unaware of how to implement this service. Some may be intimidated by the construction/renovation project process, such as how to get quotes from contractors.”
3. Growing Demand	There is increasing demand for HMR to improve the safety and support of housing for older adults. Example: “[We] started the program in fiscal year 2016, and since then we have seen a positive increase in demand for the services each of the following years since its inception.”
4. Coordination Needs	There is ongoing need for coordination within and between state agencies that serve older adults. Example: “More state level coordination is required for [respondent state] to better address the need of older adults for home repair.”
5. Benefits to Independent Living	Home modifications often result in health/functioning benefits that can be cost reducing for state agencies. Example: “The ability to live independently and safely at home with home modifications when needed is critical to avoid assisted living and skilled nursing or other long-term care.”

Opportunities for Change: Building Capacity



State-of-the-Art Materials and innovative SUA and AAA home modification and repair efforts for replication

Agency Task Forces or cross agency workgroups that address overlaps in state program missions and funding mechanisms

Training of Home Modification and Repair Professionals to address the increasing need for informed and qualified providers

Inclusion of Home Modification and Repairs as a key component of home-and community-based services

Designation of a Staff Person within SUAs or AAAs who is responsible and/or a point person for home modification and repair efforts

COVID-19 Adjustments

- Virtual assessments
- Minor home mods, repairs
- Safety precautions for provider and consumer

For More Information



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USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology

- www.homemods.org Home Modification news, research, resources, SUA Report
- www.homemods.org/hmin Home Modification Information Network
- www.homemods.org/acl Information on USC's ACL-funded project and products

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging: www.n4a.org

ADvancing States: www.advancingstates.org