



Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAA) Vehicle Modifications Assistive Technology

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EAA Enhances Quality of Life

Check out Nicole's EAA (Home Modification) success story on our YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/ZVbMbPM4i3w>

Why EAA is so important



Nicole's Home
Modification
Success Story

youtu.be



Health and Safety

EAA provides individuals the opportunity to stay in their home and not have to move to an institutional setting.



EAA provides independence in the home and in the community.

Missouri Inclusive Housing (MoHousing) partners with DMH-DD

Missouri Inclusive Housing has been in partnership with DMH-Division of Developmental Disabilities to assist with EAA services for 12 years. In 2021, DMH dedicated three staff to specifically work on the Assistive Technology and Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (Home Modification) Projects. This group has been named Universal Design and Assistive Technology team (UDAT). Missouri Inclusive Housing staff meets on a weekly basis with UDAT to discuss the needs of the Home Modification process and projects that are currently underway to ensure the process is working smoothly and that needs of individuals, families, and contractors are being addressed. During 2021, Missouri Inclusive Housing was commissioned to assist in developing a training and webinar on the EAA services which would be available to Support Coordinators, Providers, and DMH staff to provide guidance with the EAA process. This webinar can be accessed on the internet at the DMH website <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7gamKfBudY%20>.

The DMH UDAT members, along with Missouri Inclusive Housing, will also be going to various parts of the state during this next year to meet with and train stakeholders that are involved in the EAA services.

Assistive Technology

The UDAT team is also sponsoring a “Lunch and Learn” series dedicated to providing information on Universal Design and Assistive Technology to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Information on joining the Lunch and Learn can be acquired by signing up for the E-Mail blast from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. [Division of Developmental Disabilities: Sign Up to Stay in Touch \(constantcontact.com\)](#)

Virtual Technology Summit

MoHousing was one of the partners to host a three-part series on technology and ways to support individuals. The summit provided the audience with an opportunity to hear from individuals who are leaders in technology including:

- Creating a smart home
- Technology Solutions
- Agency implementation of assistive technology
- Assistive Technology in the workplace
- Exploring Technology
- Self-Advocate interactive discussion

All the session recordings are available at [Session Recordings | dmh.mo.gov](https://dmh.mo.gov/session-recordings)

Changes to process

EAA/Vehicle modification services are unique in that the contractors that provide the services are not the typical service provider for an individual, but rather companies that work with adaptive architectural features and materials. The needs of the individuals are identified through occupational and physical therapy assessments which help guide the contractors with designing the project that will need to be completed.

In looking at the history of the EAA service, it was apparent that supports needed to be put in place to ensure the process was following the requirements and to assist with accelerating the service to get to the individuals in a timely manner. A review of requested projects that cost over \$5,000.00 will now be reviewed by the UDAT/MoHousing Team prior to the request going to the committee that reviews and recommends approval. This is being done to ensure all pieces of the services are following guidelines and get services started more quickly for individuals. The chart below shows that the need for EAA services is steady and does not seem to have decreased over the last five years.



Based on data provided by DMH, there continues to be a need for EAA services to assist in supporting people and their caregivers in their homes.

EXCITING NEWS

The Department of Mental Health has announced that The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have approved the state's 1915(c) MO.4185.R05.12 Missouri Children with Developmental Disabilities (MOCDD) Waiver, MO.0841.R02.15 Partnership for Hope waiver, MO.0404.R04.05 Division of DD Community Support Waiver and MO.0178.R07.05 Comprehensive Waiver.

The effective date of the amendment to the Waivers is January 1, 2023. Changes to Environmental Accessibility Adaptations-Home/Vehicle Modification maximum limitation have occurred in this approval from CMS.

1. The new limit for EAA services has been changed to \$20,000.00 over a two-year period with start date from the Annual Individualized Habilitation Plan date.
2. There is a transition period during 2023 due to when ISP annual dates occur.

The DMH/DD Universal Design and Assistive Technology team (UDAT) will be providing webinars to explain how the transitions period will be managed during 2023.