



Access To Independence

BHDDH's Division of Developmental Disabilities
Home Modification Program



Rhode Island
Department of Behavioral
Healthcare, Developmental
Disabilities & Hospitals
(BHDDH)

Access to Independence

A home modification program for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families

The Access to Independence Home Modification Program is a collaboration between The Department of Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) and RI Housing.



Overview

The Access To Independence program provides funding in the form of grants and/or loans to families and caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities to make modifications within their homes to furnish and install equipment to improve accessibility.

Access to Independence does not use Medicaid funds. All funding is through the state.



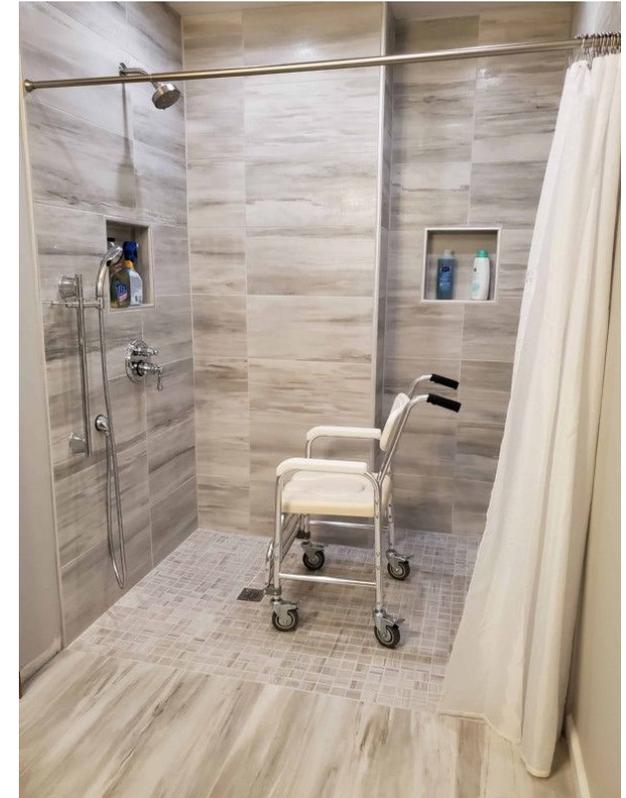
HOME MODIFICATIONS

Requested home modifications must provide for improvements or modifications to the dwelling for the care and/or mobility needs of an eligible person to allow the person to safely and comfortably reside in his/her home.

Program Requirements

There are three main requirements to apply for funding through the Access to Independence Program.

1. An individual must meet the requirements of having developmental disability and be at least 17 years old.
2. The equipment or home modification requested must meet an assessed need by a Doctor or Physical Therapist.
3. The individual and/or family must meet the income requirements.
 - Adjusted Income of the applicant/family cannot exceed \$110,341.00 (2023)



Homeowner or Renter Applicant?

An individual and/or family will apply for funding as a Homeowner or a Renter, depending on where they are living.

What is the difference
between a Homeowner
and a Renter Applicant?



Homeowner Applicants

DD Participants and/or family who live in their family home will apply for funding as homeowners.

- **Up to \$50,000 Funding for Homeowners**
 - Amounts up to \$20,000 are full grants
 - Amounts over \$20,000 will have a Loan/Lien on the property up to \$30,000
- **Funding for permanent renovations and/or removable items**
 - Bathroom Conversion
 - Kitchen Conversion
 - Deck
 - ADA Sliding Glass Doors
 - Ramps - Fixed and Removable



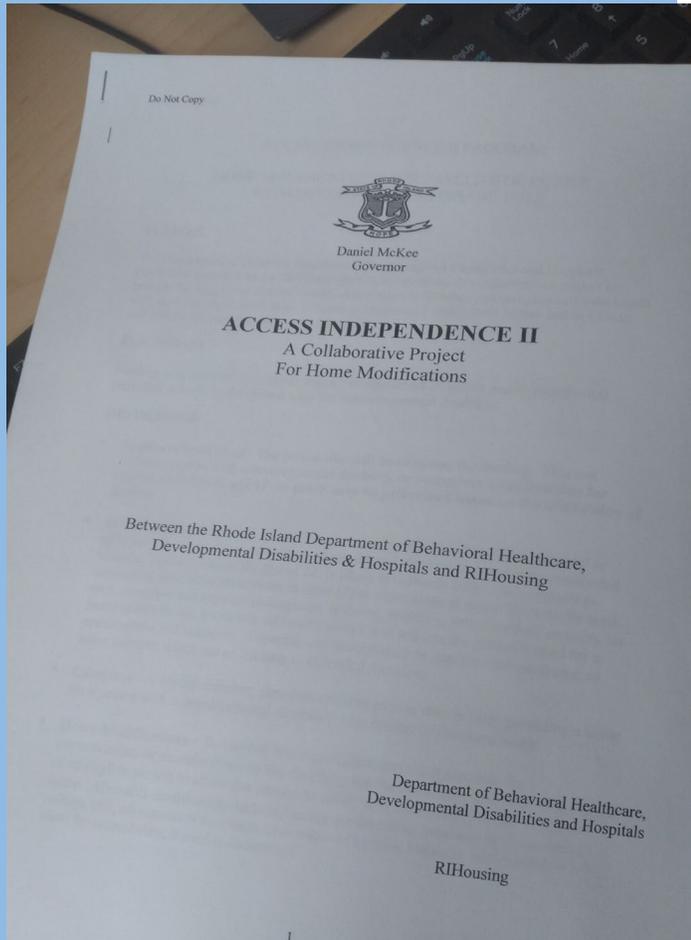
Renter Applicants

DD Participants and/or family who live in an apartment will apply for funding as renters.

- **Up to \$20,000 for Funding for Renters**
 - No permanent home modifications
 - Full Grants for Removable Items Only. Items include but are not limited to the following:
 - Ramps
 - Patient lifts
 - Automatic Door opener
 - Chair lift
 - Specialized Shower Chairs

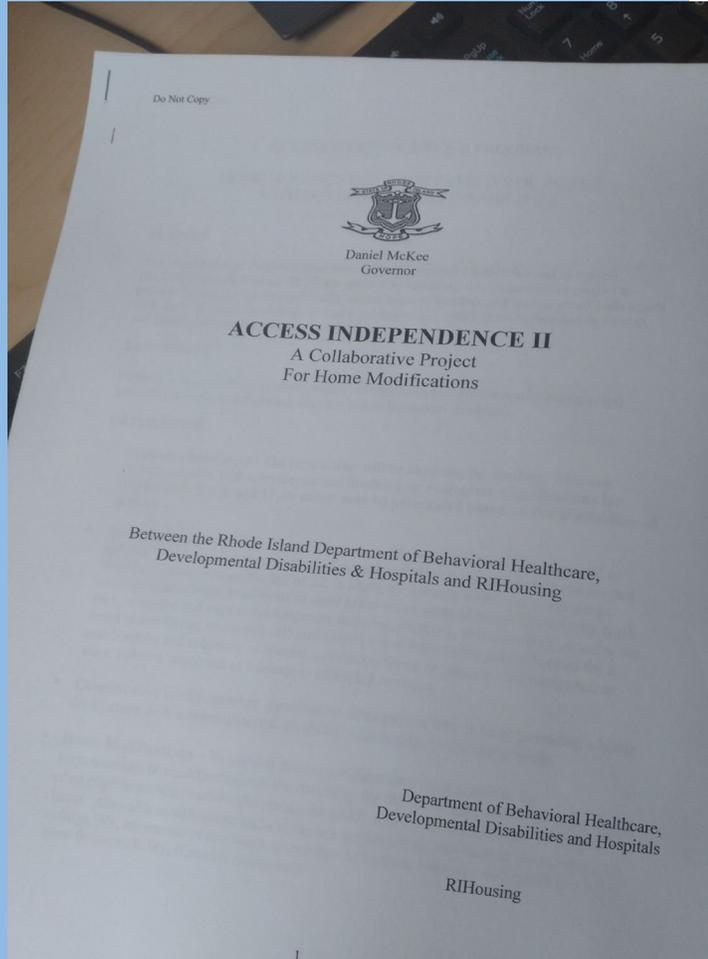


Application Process



1. Send requests for Access to Independence funding to the DD Deputy Administrator.
2. The Deputy Administrator will call the DD participant and/or family to talk about the program and determine if the applicant meets the requirements.
3. If the DD participant/family meet the requirements and want to apply for funding, the Deputy Administrator will schedule a meeting with the participant/family and an inspector from Rhode Island Housing.
4. The inspector will review the feasibility of the project.
5. The Deputy Administrator will assist with completing the application and answer any questions.

Application Process



6. The Deputy Administrator adds participant information to the Access to Independence Tracking Spreadsheet.
7. The applicant contacts the contractor(s) to schedule a meeting to discuss the home modification or equipment and to get a quote for the cost of the work or equipment.
8. The Deputy Administrator and RI Housing Inspector, meet on site with the contractor(s) and applicant(s) to discuss the scope of work and the Access to Independence Program funding process.
9. The Deputy Administrator follows up with the applicant(s) until the application is complete.

Submit the Application

The applicant(s) should make a copy of the completed application and required documents for their records and then mail the application packet to:

BHDDH/DDD
6 Harrington Rd.
Simpson Hall
Cranston, RI 02910
Attn: Access to Independence



Application Review Process

- ❖ The Deputy Administrator will review the application and all the required documents to ensure the packet is complete.
- ❖ The Deputy Administrator will review application for approval or denial based on the program guidelines.
 - The applicant will receive a letter from the Deputy Administrator with the decision.
 - If the application is approved, the Deputy Administrator will send a copy of the application packet to RI Housing for processing.
- ❖ RI Housing will review the application for income eligibility and create the contract between the applicant and vendor(s). When the contract is signed by both the applicant and the contractor, then the work can begin.



Completion of Work

- ❖ The Deputy Administrator will follow up with the contractor and applicant until the work is completed.
- ❖ RI Housing is responsible for all inspections and for all payment disbursements.
- ❖ RI Housing will notify the Deputy Administrator of the final payment, and the Deputy Administrator will close the Access to Independence project.



**Examples of three
Access to
Independence
Projects**

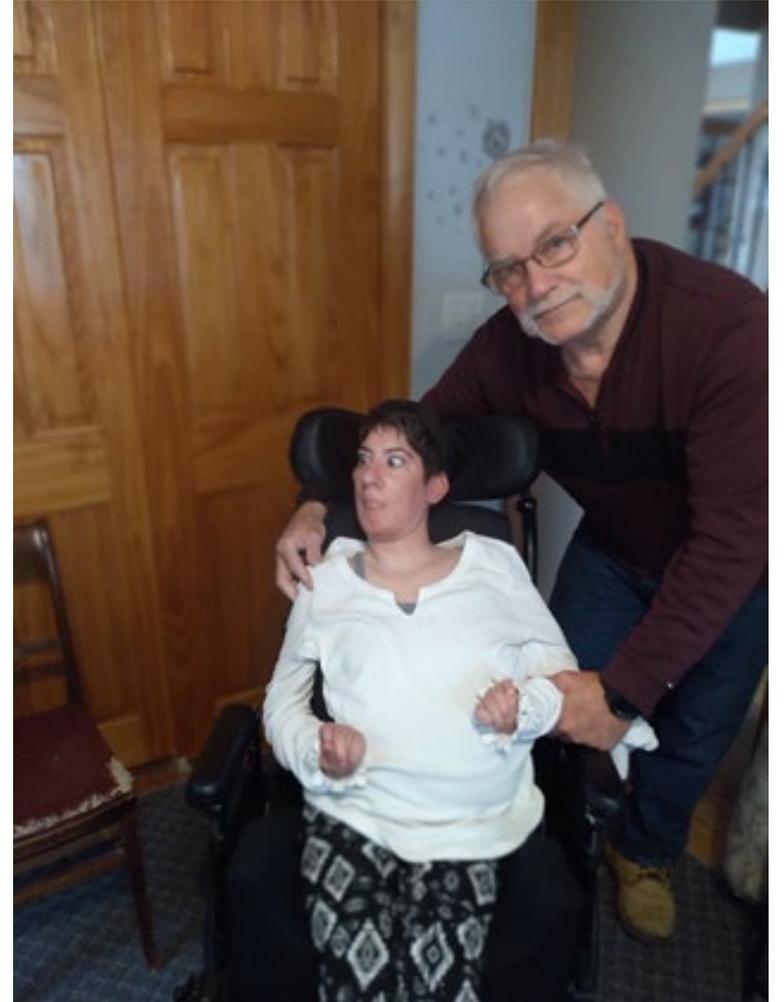
1. Homeowner
2. Renter
3. Shared Living

Homeowner Recipient

Brooke

Brooke lives with her parents in the family home in Cumberland.

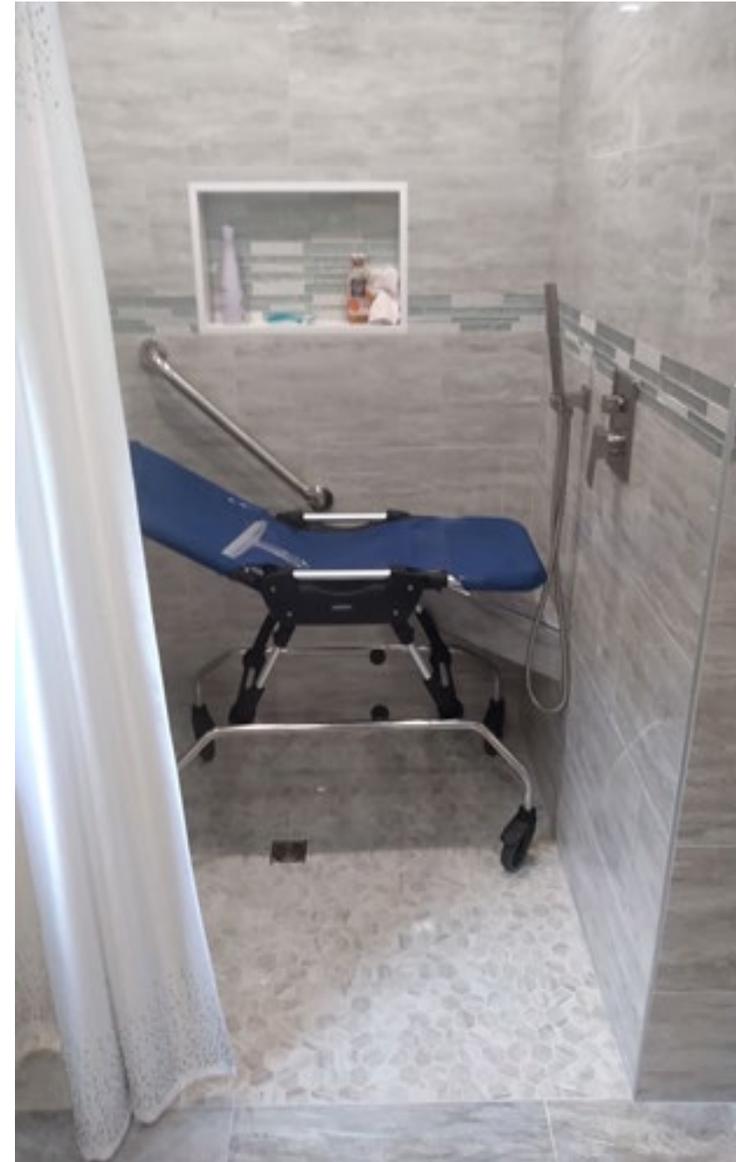
The family applied to the Access to Independence program for a bathroom modification.



Homeowner Applicant

Brooke

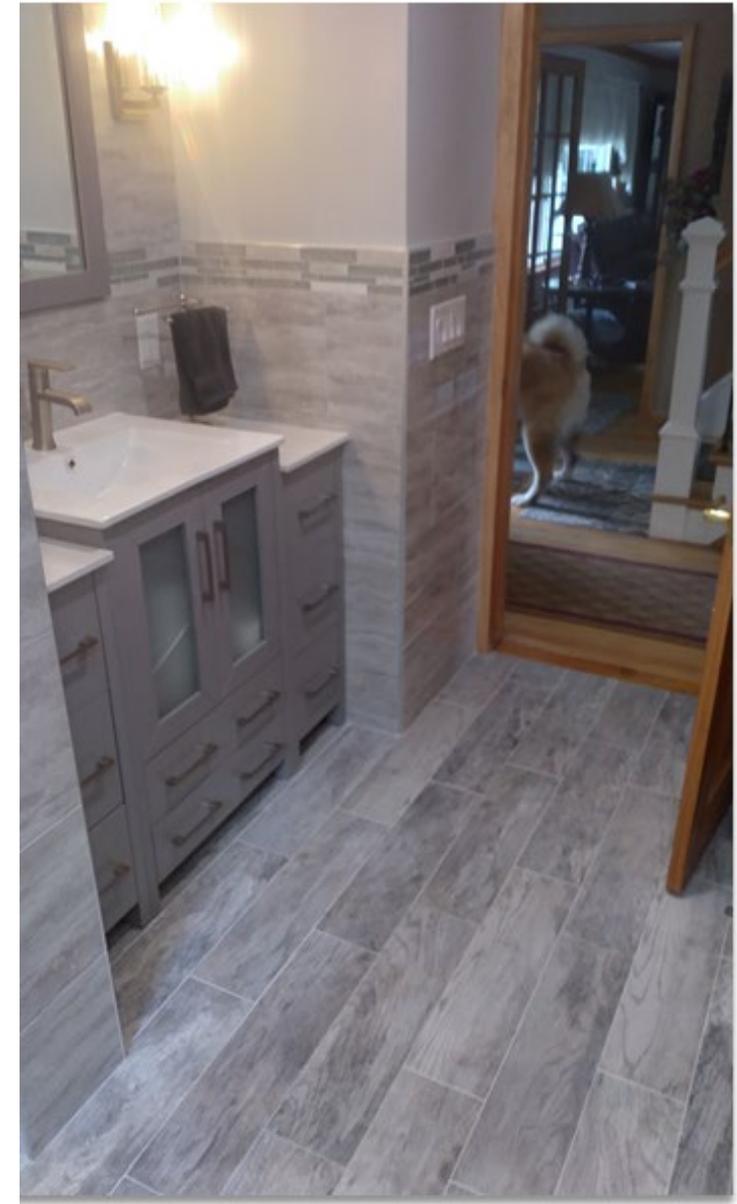
- The old bathroom was too small, and the doorway was not wide enough to fit Brook's wheelchair.
- The Family decided to expand the bathroom by using half of a bedroom closet on the other side of the wall.
- The shower is now double in size and can easily accommodate the bathing chair.



Homeowner Recipient

Brooke

- The doorway was widened, and a new floor was installed with a seamless transition to the hallway.
- The whole family is very happy with the new accessible bathroom.



Renter Recipient

Daniel

- Daniel lives with his mother and sisters on the first-floor apartment in a three-story home located in Pawtucket.
- Daniel uses a wheelchair and needed a ceiling lift system to get into and out of bed and a Vertical Platform lift to access the community.



Renter Applicant Daniel

Installing a ramp was not possible for the three-family home with no front yard.

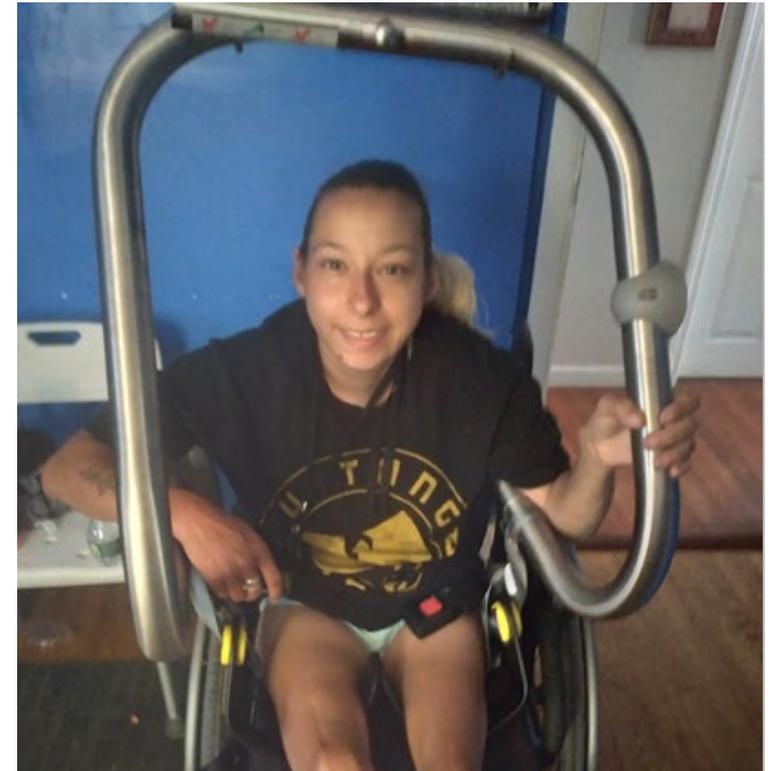
A new deck and vertical platform lift was installed. The deck was built over the original stairs.



Shared Living Arrangement Recipient

Denise

Denise lives in a Shared Living Arrangement (SLA). She has lived with the Santiago Family in Cranston for the past 3 years.

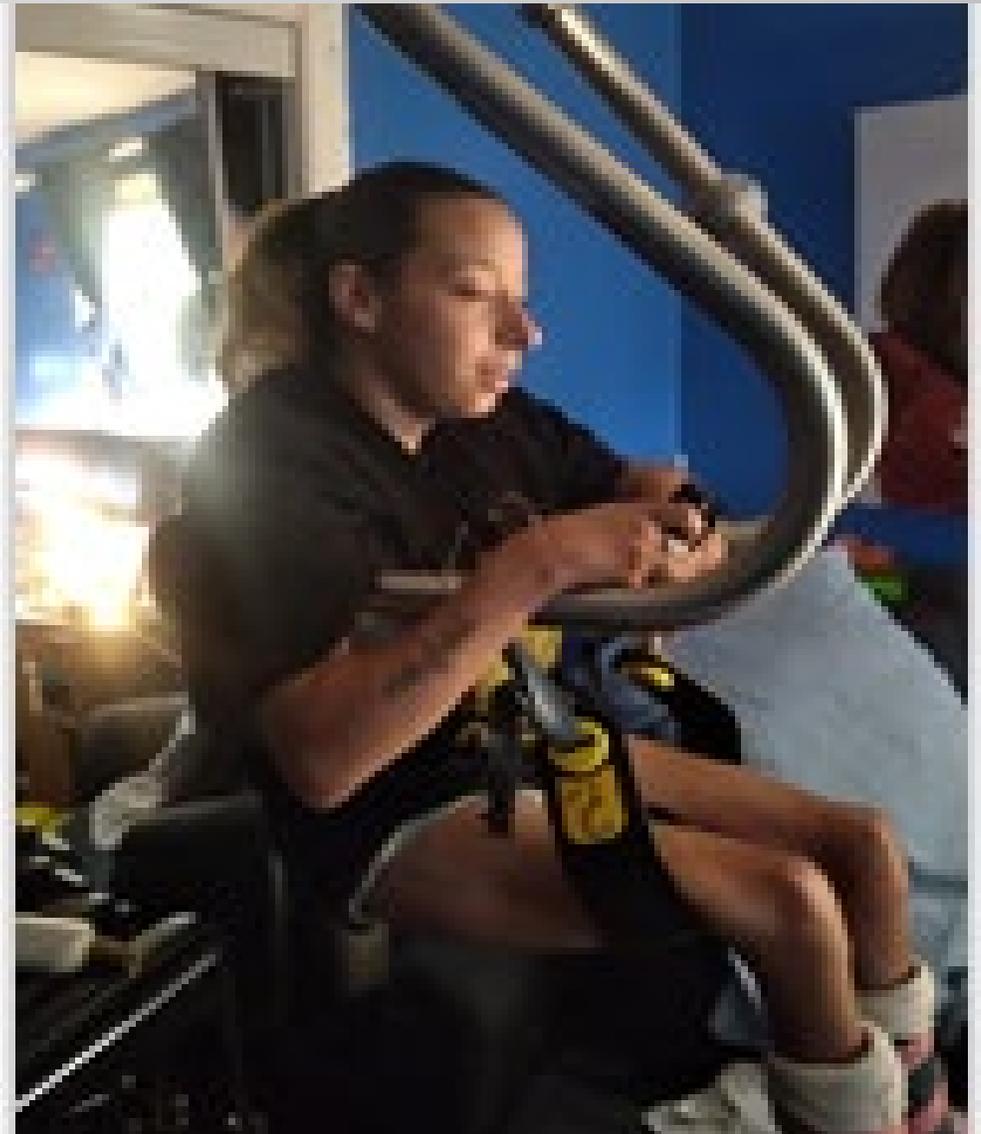


SLA Applicant

Denise

Denise uses a wheelchair to get into and out of her bed. A ceiling lift system, makes this easier for both Denise and her caretakers.

Denise likes having more independence.



A Home Modification Program promoting Safety and Independence

For more information on the Access to Independence Program:



Call: (401) 462-2766

or

Email: christine.botts@bhddh.ri.gov