



DAIL Housing Accessibility Project

Pre-Assessment Training

February 2023



Introductions

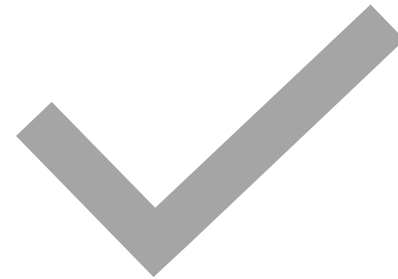
DAIL

Direct Access

Today's Training Focus



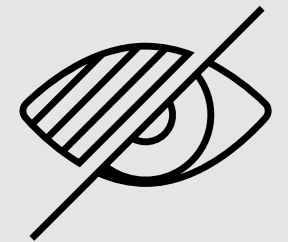
Review the importance of completing a thorough Pre-assessment

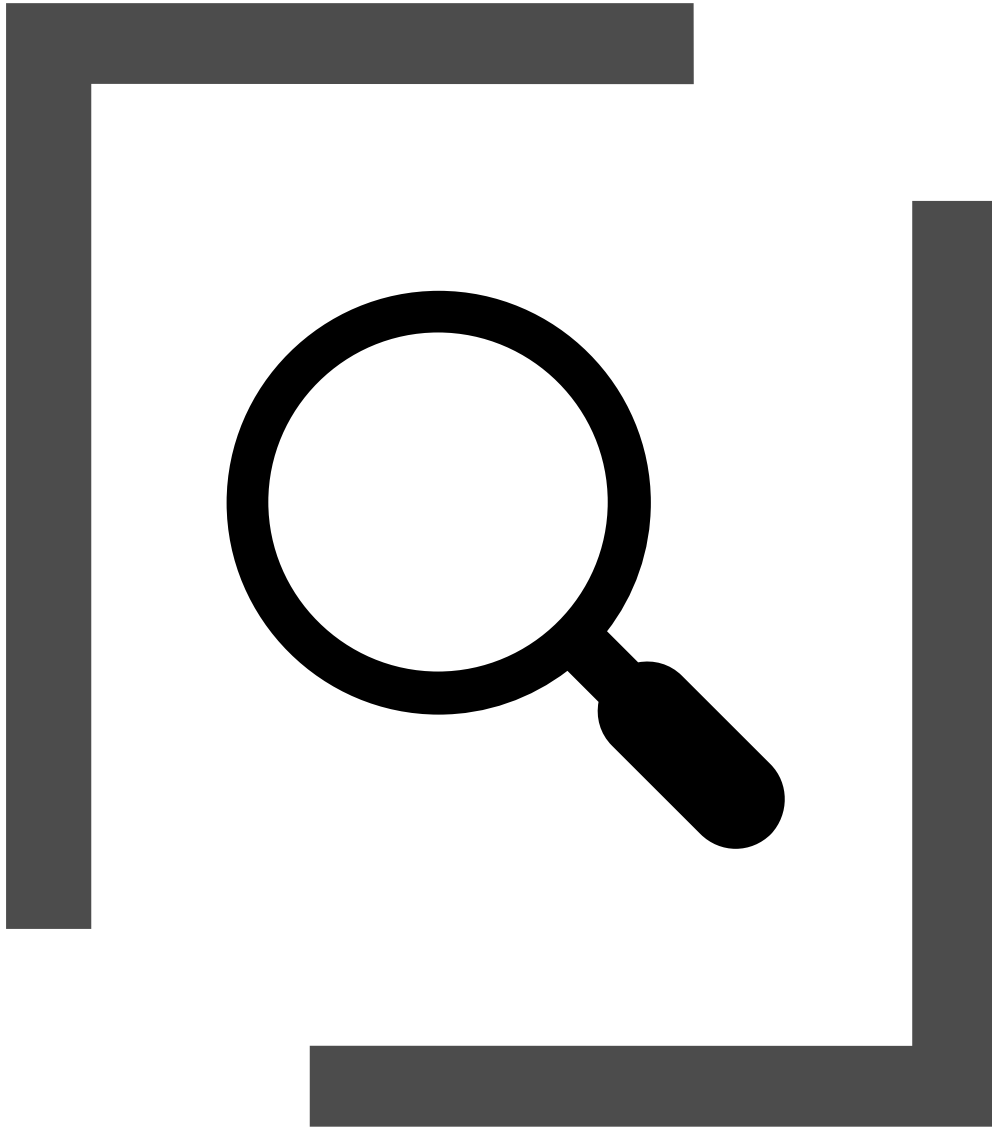


Review expectations on communication between Agency and Accessibility Contractor

Reminder: The Accessibility Assessment Purpose has NOT changed

- When an individual who uses a wheelchair, a walker, or has other mobility or accessibility needs (such as low vision or hearing loss that affect the individual's ability to freely navigate the home environment) receives home supports funded by DAIL, an Accessibility Assessment of the residence is required.
- The Accessibility Assessment is intended to maximize an individual's independence and level of safety and is designed to provide workable and safe environments for caregivers.





The Accessibility Assessment Process will focus on:

Assessing the home environment through the lens of the individual receiving supports and services, and implementing home modifications that will:

- Address any immediate health or safety risks and
- Include improvements that will have a considerable impact on the individual's independence and will increase safety for the individual and all caregivers.

How do we achieve this?

Pre-Assessment

Gathering accurate and detailed information about the participant's mobility needs and how they currently access the home environment

Assessment

Conducting a comprehensive in-person assessment of the participant's mobility needs in the home environment

The Pre-Assessment Process

A critical step to ensure that the Accessibility Contractor has ALL the information they will need to complete the Assessment.

This allows the Accessibility Contractor to focus on interacting with the participant and observing their mobility during the initial visit.

Completing the Pre-Assessment Form

Forms should be filled out legibly. Fillable forms are available: [DAIL Housing Safety and Accessibility Website](#).

All questions should be completed through a person-centered process driven by the participant's mobility needs


Completed forms should reflect the participant's mobility needs and desires for safe and independent access in and around their home

Example #1

What are the common areas inside of this home? Please include details regarding how the participants uses these common areas.

(answer)

Keir likes to spend her evenings in the living area of the home to watch TV with the SLP and other family members. She also likes to eat her meals sat at the dining table in the kitchen area and enjoys assisting the SLP in preparing meals and snacks within the kitchen.

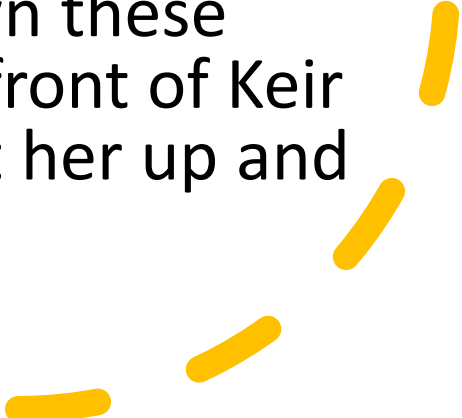


Example #2

What is the accessible route to the home that the participant will use? Please include detail describing how the participant accesses the home and include a description of any assistance received?

(answer)

Keir uses the steps located to the main entrance of the home. Keir requires full support when walking up and down these stairs. The participant will walk in front of Keir holding both of her hands to assist her up and down the stairs.



Example #3

Please list any adaptive devices (wheelchair, walker, cane, etc.) or other supportive needs for mobility (someone's arm, furniture, etc.) the participant uses inside the home.

(answer)

- Medical Adjustable Bed – Opera Classic Profiling Bed
- Keir requires AO2 for getting in and out of the bed and getting in and out of the bath. SLP and carer physically lift Keir with no transferring aid.
- Keir requires AO1 when entering the shower area due to needing to step over the bathtub to enter / exit the area.
- Keir walks around the home independently without walking aids. However, when navigating the main corridor of the home, Keir holds onto the wall for support.
- SLP holds Keir's hand/s when walking up and down the stairs within the home.



Pre-Assessment Best Practice Suggestions:

Educate	Educate the Participant and Shared Living Provider about the Accessibility Assessment process
Involve	Involve the Participant (or guardians where applicable) in the pre-assessment process
Complete	Complete the pre-assessment form with details about the participant and home environment
Ensure	Ensure you have a copy of the pre-assessment form with you during the assessment visit

Communication Expectations

What types of questions should go to the Accessibility Contractor?

What types of questions should go to DAILE?



Communication Between Agency and the Accessibility Contractor

Clarification of Direct Access Observations/Recommendations

If, after an agency reviews the report uploaded by the contractor, they need more information on the recommendation or clarification on the observation note itself; the agency may reach out to the contractor to ask for additional information. This is not disputing the finding, only requesting clarification of the existing findings.

Alternative Home Modification

If an agency is proposing a home modification that they believe would meet the goal of the requirement made by the contractor but is not specifically detailed in the observation or recommendation note written by the contractor, the agency may reach out to the contractor to find out if the proposed alternative would be acceptable.

Examples of Communication Between Agency and the Accessibility Contractor

Clarification Question

Example #1 – *“On 4.3, are adaptive light switches required for every light in the house or only lights in those areas that the participant accesses?”*

Example #2 – *“On 6.1 the observation note says the bedroom door width is 23 inches. We believe the bedroom door is 30 inches and the closet door is 23 inches. Is the note referencing the closet door?”*

Alternative Home Modification Question

Example #1 – *“On 6.3, a barn-style closet door is recommended to allow the participant to freely access the area. Would an acceptable modification be the removal of the closet door or the construction of shelves outside of the closet?”*

Variations

It is DAIL's expectation that all required items (red / yellow) will result in home modifications.

In the rare occurrence where a participant and agency do not agree to move forward with the home modification as required by the Accessibility Contractor, then a variance may be requested through the Housing Portal.



Communication Between Agency and DAIL

Variance Request

If a participant/agency disagrees with the requirement of the contractor, the agency may submit a request for a variance to DAIL. Requests for variances may not be made directly to the contractor. Because the contractor is providing the original finding, it would not be appropriate to reach out to the contractor and discuss the possibility of an approved variance to the findings. Variance requests are only allowable for required items (red or yellow) and not recommended items (green or blue). This request is made via the DAIL Housing Portal.

Extension of Time

If an agency is planning on completing home modifications but needs time beyond the number of days allowed to complete one or more items, an extension of the time allowed to complete the accessibility assessment process may be requested from DAIL. This request is made via the DAIL Housing Portal.

Questions

Email DAIL @

AHS.DAILHousingPortal@vermont.gov

