

Expanded Eligibility for Disabled Vets Home Access Grants in Brookhaven

Important Update: NYS has amended the definition of a Disabled Veteran and will now accept a "Professional Evaluation" of the disability rather than the previously mandated VA Certification. This means many more may qualify for the Home Accessibility Grant in the Town of Brookhaven as described below. Please do not let this opportunity pass you by!

The Housing Trust Fund Corporation has approved an amendment to the Access to Home for Veterans program grant agreement to incorporate the provisions of Private Housing Finance Law Article XXX New York Access to Home for Heroes Program. PHFL Article XXX redefines "disabled veteran" as follows:

"Disabled veteran" shall mean a veteran with, including but not limited to, a permanent physical or medical impairment resulting from an anatomical or physiological condition which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function, substantially limits a major life activity or which is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques. A professional evaluation must be provided which identifies the disability, describes the substantial limitation caused by the disability, and recommends potential structural modifications to improve the activities of daily living within and/or access to such residence in consideration of such disability.

Important Notice to ALL DISABLED VETERANS who own a home in the Town of Brookhaven. TOB is still seeking viable candidates for its portion of the NYS Housing & Community Renewal Access to Home Veterans Grant.

This is a 5 year forgivable lien (20% per year) designed to improve home accessibility for Veterans with a certified disability. Potential projects include wheelchair ramps, handicap accessible bathroom and kitchen remodels, and more.

The Town has approximately \$50,000 left in this grant allowance, with a cap of \$25,000 max per project. One project already underway in Coram will provide an elevator for a disabled veteran who owns a second story home.

If you are a veteran with a disability, or if you know one, PLEASE reach out IMMEDIATELY to:
John J. Kelly, Housing Rehabilitation Administrator Department of Housing, Town of Brookhaven, One Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738, Tel (631) 451-6570, Fax (631) 451-6597 Email John at:
jkelly@brookhavenny.gov

Additionally, other home improvement projects are available via TOB's regular Housing Rehabilitation Program. <http://www.brookhavenny.gov/Departments/Housing-Human-Services/Home-Improvement/Residential-Rehabilitation-Program>

Although there are certain income qualifications for these programs, please don't automatically rule out your eligibility. A simple phone call or email could mean a world of difference in your living conditions!