

The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter's Home Accessibility Program

Most homes are not designed or constructed to accommodate the needs of disabled people in terms of accessibility, safety, independence, and location. Our Chapter offers virtual home assessments by a Certified Home Modification Specialist that help people with ALS and their families make decisions about the best modifications for accessibility and safety.

- Home assessments evaluate:
 - Entrance/Exit
 - Bathrooms
 - Bedroom(s)
 - Hallways
 - Other areas

- Discussions during the assessment often include topics like:
 - Toileting
 - Transfers
 - Bed options
 - Caregiving
 - Wheelchair use
 - Accessible vehicles
 - Smart Home technology

- Decision Making regarding home modifications and accessibility:
 - Is the house accessible?
 - Do you make permanent or temporary adaptations?
 - Is the person with ALS **safe** with these adaptations? Is the caregiver **safe**?
 - What makes sense for your budget? Now, as well as planning for future needs? Some things to consider:

- The VA is the only organization that will reliably fund renovations
- Out of pocket expense can be thousands
 - Some long-term care policies will offer coverage for durable medical equipment or renovations
- Comparison of modifications versus cost of care should they need to hire help
- Medical decisions
 - Trach/no trach
- Will modifications increase or decrease home value?
- Moving

Virtual home assessments are offered free of charge to any person with ALS that is registered with the Chapter.

To schedule an assessment, contact:

Alisa Brownlee, Assistive Technology Specialist

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Alisa Brownlee, ATP, CLIPP, CAPS is a certified home modifications specialist who is credentialed through the National Association of Home Builders and the Living in Place Institute. She has been practicing in the field of assistive technology for over 20 years and has worked for the Chapter for 24 years.