

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Shelby Michalek
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF
WESTMORELAND
smichalek@co.westmoreland.pa.us
724.830.3050

Accessible Housing Program Seeks Applicants for Home Modifications

GREENSBURG (December 22) – The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland, through its new Accessible Housing Program initiative, is seeking applicants for home modifications intended to help permanently disabled, low-income residents throughout Westmoreland County. The program assists residents in need by installing either a ramp or stair lift in their home for improved mobility.

The goal is to initiate more projects in time for the Holidays to ease strain for local residents in these tough situations. Although this program gives preference on need base and income, all permanent physically disabled individuals are encouraged to apply. Redevelopment Authority Chairperson Donald Kinosz adds, “This program demonstrates an interagency effort to meet the housing needs of some of our most needy and most worthy residents and veterans.”

The program recently saw its first results by installing a stair lift for a family in Jeannette. The lift is helping assist James Nock, an 8 year old who could not access the upper floor in his family’s residence without great difficulty. James’ mother, Paula, has found great relief in the assistance stating, “The lift has impacted us both greatly in allowing further mobility and freedom for James, along with relieving the struggle for me of carrying him up the stairs on my own”. This modification for the Authority is the first in a line of many to help physically disabled residents maneuver through their homes.

The modifications are possible due to a \$175,000 grant through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund to rehabilitate single-family homes for low-income families. By leveraging the grant with \$100,000 of CDBG money, the Authority plans to assist numerous households into the new year.

“This grant is helping us continue our efforts to provide accessible housing options for our most vulnerable residents and their families,” said Executive Director April Kopas.

Applications for the Accessible Housing Program are available at:
www.westmorelandredevelopment.com or by calling (724) 830-3050.

XXX