

## **Access to Home**

NeighborWorks® Home Resources (NWHR) is partnering with Directions in Independent Living, Inc. (Directions) to provide physical accessibility modifications to 16 household units. The program is called the Rural Accessibility Modification Program (RAMP).

\$200,000 in funding has been provided by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

- All customers must have a physical or mental disability in order to participate in this program. Evidence of a disability will be provided by the customer and will consist of documentation from a physician or other health care professional. Pre-existing customers of Directions will not be required to provide documentation, as it is assumed that if they are already a Directions customer that they have a disability.
- Accessibility rehab measures that will be addressed but not limited to in this Access to Home program are wheelchair ramps and interior and exterior lifts, and expanded doorways; roll-in showers with grab bars, bathtub grab bars and seats; locating a bathroom or bedroom on the first floor; easy-to-reach work and storage areas and other kitchen modifications; traction tape on stairways, door handles and additional outside lighting; modifications for the visually and hearing impaired; installing special thermostatic or environmental controls; and installing appliances that respond to verbal commands.
- There is a need to serve the disabled population in Cattaraugus County. Directions has no shortage of customers, performing 150 assessments annually throughout their service area. The most recent Census data outlines this need. The total number of persons age 5 and older with disabilities that live in poverty in Cattaraugus County is 3,282. The total population of Cattaraugus County, the service area for this Access to Home grant, is 83,955. 4% of the County's population is disabled and lives in poverty.
- This program is available for either owner-occupied units or rental units.