



# Disability Commission Housing Workgroup (DCHWG) 11-13-07

## Key Topics:

- Visitability: An Update
- DCHWG proposed work plan

# Visitability in Virginia

Activities and initiatives that can promote visitability and universal design

In Virginia :

- Developing an EasyLiving Home Coalition
- The Livable Home Tax Credit

## ***What is the EasyLiving HomeProgram?***

- EasyLiving Home is the nation's first voluntary certification program that specifies criteria in everyday construction to add convenience and welcomes all friends, family and visitors regardless of age, size or physical ability.
- Small changes create key lifestyle benefits for homeowners - a home not only easy to live in, but also:

**Easy to build, Easy to visit, Easy to sell**

## ***What features are required to earn the EasyLiving Home certification?***

- 1) A step-free entrance into the main floor*
- 2) A bedroom, kitchen, wheelchair-friendly bathroom and entertaining area all on the main floor*
- 3) Every interior door on the main floor provides a minimum of 32 inches of clear passage.*

*That's it! Easy Access, Easy Use, Easy Passage*

# Developing an **EasyLiving Home Coalition**

The Georgia coalition has worked diligently for the past four years developing materials and processes that constitute a successful certification program, their guidance on initial key activities/strategies include:

- An enthusiastic group of people/organizations form a coalition that encompasses a large metropolitan area or a statewide coalition.
- The coalition includes a commitment to full participation from a Statewide or large metropolitan Home Builders Association.

# Developing an **EasyLiving Home Coalition**

- The coalition also includes a commitment to full participation from one or more statewide or large metropolitan disability-related organizations such as a Statewide Independent Living Council, an Independent Living Center, a Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (in VA the VBPD)
- “Full participation” means the participation of a designated individual to attend coalition meetings as well as carry out various activities identified by the coalition, in order to enhance the continuity needed to plan and carry out the program.

# Potential Coalition members in Virginia

- AARP of Virginia
- Easter Seals of Virginia
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities \*
- Statewide Independent Living Council \*
- Home Builders Association of Virginia \*
- VHDA
- VAPDC
- Virginia Housing Coalition\*
- Fannie Mae

## [ Potential Coalition members in Virginia - *continued* ]

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### Partners to Identify:

- A Realtor
- A Builder
- An Architect or Architecture firm

# States with a EasyLiving Home Coalition

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- *Georgia*
- *Texas*
- *New Hampshire*
- *West Virginia*

# What it takes to make it happen!

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- Attend the Replication Summit: Two members of the DCHWG will attend the EasyLiving Home Replication Summit in Atlanta on January 11 & 12
- A report and next step recommendations will be provided to the DCHWG and the Disability Commission.

# [ Visitability In Virginia ]

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- Proposed Legislation:  
*Livable Home Tax Credit*
- How can this support visitability and the development of an EasyLiving Home Coalition in Virginia?

[ Disability Commission Housing Workgroup:  
Proposed Activities and Work Plan ]

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See Handout