

Environmental Modifications

Definition: Those physical adaptations to the home, required by the participant's Support Plan, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant, or which enable the participant to function with greater independence, and without which, the participant would require institutionalization. Home is defined as nongovernment-subsidized living quarters, and modifications to any government-subsidized housing (i.e. group homes or community residential care facilities) are not permitted. Such adaptations may include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies which are necessary for the welfare of the participant. Environmental Modifications should also include consultation and assessment to determine the specific needs and follow-up inspections upon completion of the project. Excluded are those adaptations or improvements to the home which are of general utility, and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant, such as carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning, awning additions, etc. The following adaptations are excluded from this waiver benefit: modifications that add square footage to the home, pools, decks, stairs, elevators, breezeways, carports and hot tubs/whirlpools. All services shall be provided in accordance with applicable State or local building codes. Home accessibility adaptations may not be furnished to adapt living arrangements that are owned or leased by providers of waiver services. Approval of a request for environmental modification is a multi-step process. The modification is initially determined by the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist based on the participant's need as documented in the Support Plan. According to State procurement policy, bids for the modification are obtained. This information is reviewed by SCDDSN staff for programmatic integrity and cost effectiveness. The environmental modification service must be within the lifetime monetary cap of \$7,500 per participant. The Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist will assist in identifying all appropriate resources, both waiver and non-waiver. Should it become necessary, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist will assist with transitioning the participant into institutional placement.

Note: Environmental modifications are not intended to provide financial assistance for any phase of new home construction or major home renovation projects. Routine and one-time home maintenance (e.g. siding repairs/replacement, gutter work, foundation repair, electrical wiring problems, etc.) are the sole responsibility of the homeowner or landlord.

The following are examples of possible adaptations that may be done as a part of Environmental Modifications (this list is not all inclusive):

- installation of a ramp to facilitate safe and easy entry to and exit from the home
- installation of grab-bars
- installation of a porch lift to facilitate safe and easy entry to and exit from the home (in certain situations a porch lift can be more feasible and cost effective than extensive ramping)
- widening of doorways to allow functional entry to the home, bathroom, bedrooms, etc.
- flooring modifications to facilitate easier propelling of a manual wheelchair (e.g. carpet is replaced with vinyl floor covering)
- modification of bathroom facilities to provide a more accessible means of maintaining personal hygiene and better independence and safety in bathing and grooming (e.g. wider bathroom door with lever hardware, a roll-in shower with customized grab-bars, roll-under sink, etc.)
- installation of specialized electrical and plumbing systems which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies which are necessary for the welfare of the participant.

Service Limits: Environmental Modifications are limited to a lifetime monetary cap of \$7,500 per participant. Environmental Modification consultations cannot exceed \$600.

Providers: Environmental Modifications are provided by contractors licensed by the State of South Carolina through the SC Division of Labor, Licensing and Regulation or by the Contractor's Licensing Board, DDSN/DSN Boards/contracted providers or by those enrolled with SCDHHS as providers of Environmental Modifications.

Environmental Assessments/Consultations must be provided by licensed Medicaid enrolled Occupational or Physical Therapists, Medicaid enrolled Rehabilitation Engineering Technologists, Assistive Technology Practitioners and Assistive Technology Suppliers certified by the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North American (RESNA), Medicaid enrolled Environmental Access/Consultants/contractors certified by Professional Resource in Management (PRIME).

In accordance with the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code, SCDDSN directive 250-08-DD, *Procurement Requirements for Local DSN Boards*, applies to all procurement activities supported in whole or in part by SCDDSN funding, including Environmental Modifications funded by the ID/RD Waiver. Providers contracted with SCDDSN must establish and follow procurement policies and procedures with requirements at least as restrictive as those contained in this directive. **Participants must be made aware of this requirement. WCM, not families, are responsible for soliciting bids for environmental modifications.**

Directive 250-08-DD can be accessed on the SCDDSN website: www.ddsn.sc.gov.

Below are the solicitation limits as defined by the Consolidated Procurement Code:

A. \$10,000 or less NO COMPETITION:

Small purchases not exceeding \$10,000 may be accomplished without securing competitive quotations if the prices are considered reasonable. The purchasing office must annotate the purchase requisition "Price is fair and reasonable" and sign. The purchases must be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers. When practical, a quotation must be solicited from other than the previous supplier before placing a repeat order. The administrative cost of verifying the reasonableness of the price of purchase "not in excess of" may more than offset potential savings in detecting instances of overpricing. Action to verify the reasonableness of the price need be taken only when the procurement officer of the governmental body suspects that the price may not be reasonable, comparison to previous price paid, or personal knowledge of the item involved.

B. \$10,001 to \$25,000 THREE WRITTEN QUOTES:

Written request for written quotes from a minimum of three (3) qualified sources of supply may be made and, unless adequate public notice is provided in the South Carolina Business Opportunities, documentation of at least three (3) bona fide, responsive, and responsible quotes must be attached to the purchase requisition for a small purchase not in excess of \$25,000. The award must be made to the lowest responsive and responsible sources. The request for quotes must include a purchase description. Requests must be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers unless advertised as provided above.

C. \$25,000.01-\$100,000 ADVERTISED SMALL PURCHASE:

Written solicitation of written quotes, bids, or proposals may be made for a small purchase not in excess of \$100,000. The procurement 250-08-DD, February 20, 2020, Page 4 must be advertised at least once in the South Carolina Business Opportunities publication. A copy of the written solicitation and written quotes must be attached to the purchase requisition. The award must be made to the lowest responsive and responsible source or, when a request for proposal process is used, to the highest ranking offeror.

Arranging for and Authorizing Services: To initiate the Environmental Modification process, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist must give the participant/legal guardian the Environmental Modifications Fact

Sheet for Participants Who Live in Privately Owned or Rented Homes (ID/RD Info Sheet2) and fully explain its contents. This must be documented in service notes. There are two options for completing Environmental Modifications from which the participant/legal guardian may choose:

1. The participant/legal guardian may choose to arrange his/her own waiver funded Environmental Modification Assessment and work with his/her Waiver Case Manager to follow procurement to obtain the specified modification. **If the participant/legal guardian chooses to bypass the SCDDSN Professional Design Team process for completing an Environmental Modification, the participant/legal guardian must sign the Release of Liability form.**
2. The participant/legal guardian may choose to have the SCDDSN Professional Design Team (PDT) complete the modification specifications using State Funds. If this option is selected, the PDT will also complete the procurement process to obtain the specified modification.

Option One: “CM/Participant Directed”

Once the participant’s specific need has been identified and documented in the Support Plan, and it is determined that Environmental Modifications is the appropriate service to meet the need, the scope of the work/specifications must be developed. This should be done in consultation with the participant/family and should define the expected modification as clearly as possible, including measurements and specific materials to be used. The expected modifications can be defined by obtaining an Environmental Modification Consultation by using part of the \$7500.00 Environmental Modification cap. The cost for the consultation can be funded by the waiver and counts against the \$7,500 Environmental Modifications lifetime monetary cap. Consultations do not require the submission of bids; however, the cost cannot exceed \$600 per consultation. Consultations **cannot** be billed directly to the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. If the provider of a Board Billed service is not directly enrolled as a Medicaid Provider and is not on the DSN QPL but will be invoicing the financial manager for services, the “non-sharable” indicator should be selected when authorizing the service and the authorization can be printed and faxed to the provider.

After an Environmental Modifications Assessment outside of the DDSN Professional Design Team has been completed, the Waiver Case Manager must review the findings/specifications with the Professional Design Team (PDT) Program Coordinator before soliciting price quotes. In some situations, additional assessments or other actions may be necessary before proceeding. If the Program Coordinator agrees that the specifications are allowed within policy, the Waiver Case Manager will be notified to proceed by reviewing the assessment with the waiver participant/family. Receipt of this notification must be documented in a Case Note and a copy of the correspondence must be maintained in the participant’s file.

Once the scope of the modification has been determined, a listing of available contractors should be shared with the participant/family or the participant should be made aware of the qualifications for contractors. This offering of choice of provider must be documented in the participant’s file. The individual/agency that completes the Assessment/Consultation is ineligible to bid on the actual modification.

Obtaining Bids: When obtaining written bids for needed environmental modifications, if the modifications include a ramp, ramp repair, widening of doorways and/or interior floor surface modifications, the requirements listed below must be adhered to when the contractor is preparing the bid and later when the project is initiated and completed. This information must be given to the participant/legal guardian and/or family and must be provided to the contractors when requesting at least three written bids. Furthermore, the written specifications for the project that were developed must be provided to each contractor, and each contractor's bid must be based on these specifications.

1. Ramps

Any ramp that is built through ID/RD Waiver funding must meet the following minimum requirements or comply with ANSI A117.1-1998.

Materials: Lumber must be treated. The use of treated lumber (rated for ground contact –) is required throughout the ramp (local building codes may be more specific as to the level of treatment in the lumber). Earth berming, used in conjunction with ramping, is permissible due to uneven terrain.

Width: The usable platform width of all ramps must be a minimum of 36” (thirty-six inches).

Slope: The slope or grade of the ramp must be no less than 1’ (one foot) of linear ramp for every 1” (one inch) of height that is to be ascended.

Designs: Fold-back (180 degree or 90 degree) turn designs are permissible. At each point where the ramp’s direction changes there must be a functional turning platform with adequate space for the participant’s mobility device to safely brake and/or change directions.

Wheelchair Turning Platforms/Landings: All turning platforms or “landings” (usually at the top end of the ramp or where the ramp changes directions) that lead directly into the home must be a minimum of 5’ x 5’ (five feet by five feet) for a safe, functional space to turn and enter the home. At any exterior entry/exit door, the turning platform should start at the hinged side of the door and extend beyond the latch side of the door to best utilize the available space to turn and maneuver a wheelchair.

Decking Material: All decking boards must be of sufficient thickness to maximize strength, provide stability, and maximize the life of the ramp.

Railings: All ramps should include handrails with pickets or other designs that will prevent wheelchairs from accidentally rolling off the sloped surface of the ramp.

Support Structures: Where it is necessary, such as in soft grass, soil, sand, loose gravel or muddy areas, or as local building codes dictate, all the ramp support posts and turning platform support posts shall be set in concrete for long-term stability.

Landing Pads: At the lower or ground end of the ramp, and where necessary, such as in soft grass, soil, sand, loose gravel or muddy areas, ramps shall include a concrete landing pad, measuring at least 4’x4’ (four feet by four feet), for function and safety. Ramps that end, for example, on a hardened surface or a concrete driveway usually do not require a concrete landing pad.

Repairs to Existing Ramps: If the project is to simply repair an existing ramp that is in unsatisfactory condition, the repairs must not in any way bring a ramp out of compliance with accessibility compliance regulations or exceed the cost of replacing the ramp with a new one.

2. Widening Doorways/Installing Door Hardware

Width: Whenever possible, a doorway must always be expanded to three (3) feet (or a 3’0” doorway). The three (3) foot door allows better function for a wider variety of mobility devices and can usually accommodate upgraded wheelchair prescriptions. In some cases, existing architectural designs may prevent widening the door to a full three (3) feet. This should be brought to the attention of the Waiver Case Manager at any time prior to authorization of the project.

Lever Door Hardware: Lever-type door hardware must always be used when participants have limited hand/finger dexterity. In some cases, the custom mounting of large “D” pull-type handles might be necessary to maximize one’s independence in opening and closing doors. For participants with limited finger dexterity, locks for bedroom/bathroom doors should be of the push-to-lock design.

Thresholds: When doorways are widened, thresholds should be kept to a minimum maximum height of ½ inch or less, so as not to create a barrier for those participants who use manual wheelchairs and/or shower chairs.

3. Interior Floor Surface Modifications

Floor surface modifications typically entail removing existing carpet in certain areas of the home and replacing it with vinyl flooring. This is sometimes done in conjunction with a complex bathroom modification to facilitate easier wheelchair maneuvering directly associated with the ADL related to personal hygiene and safety. **This modification is not intended to provide floor surface replacement for an entire home or to use more expensive materials, such as hardwood.**

The Waiver Case Manager should request written bids from contractors. Bids must be obtained and submitted to SCDDSN in accordance with State Procurement and SCDDSN Directive 250-88-DD for approval before work can be authorized. When a bid is received the Acknowledgement of Bid Submission for Environmental Modifications (ID/RD Form 59) must be completed and forward to the Provider/Contractor that submitted the bid. This must be done for each bid you receive. This communication notifies the provider/contractor that you have received their bid and they cannot proceed with beginning services without written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist.

At the time the written bid/s are submitted, the modification must be requested to the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division. In all cases, the lowest bid must be indicated. In all cases, the award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. If a bid is submitted from a contractor that has been debarred by the State of South Carolina Materials Management Office, then the bid will be dismissed and a new bid will have to be obtained.

If the participant/legal guardian has communicated concerns and issues about using the lowest bidder that involve possible bad references, proof of faulty work, complaints from the Better Business Bureau, etc. the WCM must submit in writing the reasons and concerns that the participant/legal guardian has about the provider. SCDDSN Central Office staff will examine this information and if legitimate, documented and substantiated concerns are noted, the second lowest bidder can be used to complete the modification.

Along with the written bid/s, the WCM must complete the Acknowledgment of Lifetime Monetary Cap for Environmental Modifications (ID/RD Form E-1) with the participant/legal guardian. This form must be submitted to the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division along with the written bids and the Environmental Modification Consultation. The lifetime monetary cap for environmental modifications funded through the waiver is \$7,500. This amount **cannot** be exceeded. To assure that the lifetime monetary cap is not exceeded, each participant’s file must be researched to determine if any Environmental Modifications have been funded by the ID/RD Waiver. The total dollar amount spent for modifications must be entered on the Acknowledgment of Lifetime Monetary Cap (ID/RD Form E-1) along with the dollar amount of the requested modification. This form must be signed by the participant or legal guardian.

If the cost of the low bid exceeds the waiver cap, the waiver participant/legal guardian will be notified of the overage by the WCM. If the waiver participant/legal guardian chooses to move forward with the modification, privately funding the overage, he/she will need to review and sign the “Acknowledgement of Financial

Responsibility” indicating that he/she will be responsible for these costs and any other unanticipated costs that might arise during construction.

Once the request for the modification has been approved by the Waiver Administration Division, the participant/legal guardian must be presented with the Environmental Modifications Project Agreement (ID/RD Form 60), agree to its terms and sign it before services can be authorized. Once the form is signed, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist can authorize the service.

Option Two: “DDSN Professional Design Team (PDT)”

The participant may also choose to bypass the waiver funded Consultation and have the Professional Design Team (PDT) complete the specifications and follow procurement using State Funds. The Waiver Case Manager will complete the following steps:

1. The WCM will complete the Environmental Modifications Pre-Assessment form outlining the participant’s abilities and specific modification needs and submit to Program Coordinator via SComm or secure email.
 - If a bathroom modification is requested, the WCM shall include the make/model of the participant’s current shower chair or a shower chair assessment indicating the specific shower chair the person has been assessed to need. Full information shall also be provided for wheelchair, shower trolley and/or any other prescribed equipment that may be used in the bathroom area, including arm height and any other information that may affect the bathroom design.

Note: If the waiver participant is currently receiving Physical or Occupational Therapy services, he/she can request that his/her therapist complete a shower chair assessment. Otherwise, shower chair assessments can be obtained through Equipment and Assistive Technology Assessment/Consultation. After approval by the Program Coordinator, requests will be added to the processing list and assigned in the order in which they are received and accepted. Only complete pre-assessments containing all of the necessary information will be accepted, including full information on prescribed bathroom equipment. Project workflow will be organized geographically for process efficiency.
2. At the point the participant is next on the processing list, a visit to the modification site will be conducted. A member of the PDT will be assigned as Project Coordinator. The Project Coordinator will contact the WCM to notify of the visit date and time. The WCM shall confirm the visit with the waiver participant/legal guardian and be present for the visit. WCM shall contact the Project Coordinator **within ten business days** to confirm the visit. Failure to confirm the visit will result in the participant’s name being moved to a later date determined by the PDT’s return to the geographic vicinity for other assignments.
3. The Project Coordinator will make the visit to take photos and measurements in order to develop construction plans. If any assistive technology or equipment will be utilized in the area to be modified, the Project Coordinator will observe the items and may take measurements and photos. The WCM and/or WCMS should be present at the initial site visit.
4. Plans/specifications developed by the PDT will be forwarded to the WCM for review with the participant/legal guardian, along with the Environmental Modifications Project Agreement (PDT version). If the property owner is someone other than the participant/legal guardian, he/she will also need to review and approve the plans. If there are any questions about the plans, the WCM should forward those to the Project Manager for review. A response will be provided. If the waiver participant/legal guardian has questions

which require further discussion and cannot be otherwise communicated, the Project Coordinator will arrange a conference call between the waiver participant/legal guardian, WCM, and the PDT. Once questions are resolved, the WCM should respond to the Project Coordinator **within ten business days** as to whether the participant/legal guardian and homeowner approve the plans. If the waiver participant/legal guardian and homeowner are in agreement with the plans, they will initial and sign the Environmental Modifications Project Agreement (PDT version) indicating approval of the plans/specifications as developed. The signed Environmental Modifications Project Agreement (PDT version) must be forwarded to the Project Coordinator. If the plans are not approved within ninety (90) days, the WCM will be notified that the project will be marked as resolved and the participant's name will be removed from the processing list.

5. Upon approval of the construction plans as indicated by receipt of the initialed/signed, Environmental Modifications Project Agreement (PDT version) the Project Coordinator will begin the procurement process in accordance with SCDDSN Directive 250-08-DD. Site visits prior to bid submittal will be arranged directly by bidders, utilizing contact information provided on the bid quote form, including waiver participant's name and the WCM's name and phone number. Any questions regarding the construction plans that arise should be directed to the Project Coordinator.

Once bids have been solicited and received and the lowest qualified bidder determined, the Project Coordinator will forward all bid information to the Program Coordinator, for review with the WCM, notifying of the low bid. Along with the written bid/s, the WCM must complete the Acknowledgment of Lifetime Monetary Cap for Environmental Modifications (ID/RD Form E-1) with the participant/legal guardian. The lifetime monetary cap for environmental modifications funded through the waiver is \$7,500. This amount **cannot** be exceeded. To assure that the lifetime monetary cap is not exceeded, each participant's file must be researched to determine if any Environmental Modifications have been funded by the ID/RD Waiver. The total dollar amount spent for modifications must be entered on the Acknowledgment of Lifetime Monetary Cap (ID/RD Form E-1) along with the dollar amount of the requested modification. This form must be signed by the participant or legal guardian.

6. If the cost of the low bid exceeds the waiver cap, the waiver participant/legal guardian will be notified of the overage by the WCM. If the waiver participant/legal guardian chooses to move forward with the modification, privately funding the overage, he/she will need to review and sign the "Acknowledgement of Financial Responsibility" indicating that he/she will be responsible for these costs and any other unanticipated costs that might arise during construction. When the cost of the modification exceeds the waiver cap, the contractor awarded the modification will be responsible for completing a separate contract with the homeowner/waiver participant denoting the portion of the work and costs that are the responsibility of the homeowner/waiver participant. The contractor will also outline the specific work and costs provided with waiver funding.

A copy of this agreement/contract between the contractor and participant/homeowner must be provided to the WCM and reviewed by the Project Manager before the waiver funded portion of the work can be authorized.

7. The Project Coordinator will initiate the DDSN Form 101, Environmental Modifications Agreement (contract) and have the contractor sign. When signed, the Project Coordinator will forward this form to the WCM. The WCM is responsible to sign the contract and have the contract signed by the waiver participant/legal guardian and homeowner, and returned to the Project Coordinator **within seven business days**. Upon receipt, the Project Coordinator will initial and date the contract and forward to the contractor. **Work cannot begin until the contract is signed by all involved parties and the work is authorized.**

8. WCM must update the Support Plan to include the cost of the modification (see “Updating the Support Plan” below for detail regarding this process). Upon approval, the WCM must send the authorization to the contractor (see “Authorizing the Service” below for detail regarding this process). **No work can begin until the service has been approved and authorized.**
9. Upon receipt of the signed contract, Project Coordinator will identify a pre-construction meeting date for first time contractors and all bathroom modifications (ramps and smaller projects do not require a pre-construction meeting unless the PDT deems it necessary). Project Coordinator will forward this information to the WCM and request that the WCM confirm the meeting date/time with waiver participant/legal guardian. WCM will confirm date and notify Project Coordinator **within five business days**. The WCM and/or WCMS must be present at the pre-construction meeting.

If no pre-construction meeting is required, the Project Coordinator will negotiate the start date with the contractor and confirm participant’s availability with WCM.
10. At the pre-construction meeting, the waiver participant/legal guardian/property owner shall make all required color/material selections from literature and/or samples provided by the contractor (such as color choice for floor covering, paint, etc.). Work will begin immediately following the pre-construction meeting.
11. The Project Coordinator will monitor the progress of the work. Upon completion, the Project Coordinator will make an inspection visit to determine that contract provisions have been met. The WCM and/or WCMS should be present at the project completion inspection visit. If the contract provisions have not been met, the Project Coordinator will develop a “punch list” outlining the necessary corrections. When all punch list items are completed, the Project Coordinator will indicate that the work is complete, and submit the invoice to the WCM for payment. WCM shall monitor satisfaction with participant/legal guardian, and if satisfied, the case manager will submit the invoice for payment **within five business days**. **Payment must be made to the contractor within 21 days of the invoice date.**

Note: If the Contractor requests adjustments to the specs design specs, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist will be contacted and the work will stop until the adjustments can be addressed. The Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist will contact the Central Office Waiver Coordinator and the Contractor to address the proposed adjustments to the design specifications.

Authorizing the Service:

To initiate the service following approval by the Waiver Administration Division, an electronic authorization must be completed and submitted to the chosen provider

If the provider is enrolled with SCDHHS, the provider should bill Medicaid directly for the modification. This must be indicated on the authorization. Include a copy of the authorized bid and the Environmental Modification consultation, if applicable, with the authorization.

If the provider is not enrolled with SCDHHS, Board Billed must be indicated on the authorization. Include a copy of the authorized bid and the Environmental Modification consultation, if applicable, with the authorization. If the provider of a Board Billed service is not directly enrolled as a Medicaid Provider and is not on the DDSN QPL but will be invoicing the financial manager for services, the “non-sharable” indicator should be selected when authorizing the service and the authorization can be printed and faxed to the provider.

Note: If the participant enters the hospital before the modification is initiated by the provider, the Waiver Case Manager must suspend the service, using the Notice of Suspension of Service (ID/RD Form 16-C), until the participant exits the hospital. The CM/EI should notify the Central Office Waiver Coordinator immediately upon notification that the individual entered the hospital if there is a pending environmental modification.

Monitoring Services: The CM/EI must monitor the service for completion, effectiveness, benefits, and usefulness of the service along with the participant's/family's satisfaction with the service. **When the CM/EI completes the procurement process, the following guidelines also must be followed when monitoring Environmental Modifications:**

- On-site monitoring of completed modifications must be conducted within two (2) weeks of completion (before payment is issued) to verify that the work is complete (i.e. all components of the project, as described in the written specifications/scope, have been fulfilled), adequate, and satisfactory to the family within **two weeks** of completion before payment is requested and issued.
- Monitoring of this service must be conducted with the participant/legal guardian.

Some items to consider during monitoring include:

- ❖ During construction: Has the modification begun? Is the participant satisfied with the work that has been done so far? Does the provider show the participant courtesy and respect when working in his/her home?
- ❖ Once the modification is complete: Was the modification completed as originally prescribed?
- ❖ Is the modification functional?
- ❖ Is the participant satisfied with the end result of the modification?
- ❖ How has it made his/her home more accessible and safe?
- ❖ Was he/she satisfied with the provider of the modifications?
- ❖ Did the provider show up at scheduled times and respect the wishes of the participant and his/her family?
- ❖ Are there additional needs that were included in the bid and the authorized modification that were not met by the provider?

Reduction, Suspension or Termination of Services: If services are to be reduced, suspended or terminated, a written notice must be sent to the participant/representative including the details regarding the change(s) in service, the allowance for appeal, and a ten (10) calendar day waiting period (from the date that the reduction/suspension/termination form is completed) before the reduction, suspension or termination of the waiver service(s) takes effect. See *Chapter 9* for specific details and procedures regarding written notification and the appeals process.

**S. C. DIVISION OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
ID/RD WAIVER**

Acknowledgment of Lifetime Monetary Cap for Environmental Modifications

Participant Name: _____

Medicaid #: _____

CM/EI Provider: _____

CM/EI Name: _____

This participant's record has been reviewed. Since 29 May 1999, \$_____ of ID/RD Waiver funding has been used to complete modifications on his/her behalf. The modifications being requested will cost \$_____. This amount, in addition to the amount previously spent, will not exceed the lifetime monetary cap of \$7,500 for the above-named ID/RD Waiver participant.

Participant/Legal Guardian's Signature

Date

****THIS DOCUMENT MUST REMAIN IN THE WORKING FILE AT ALL TIMES.****

S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS



ID/RD WAIVER

Environmental Modifications Fact Sheet for Participants Who Live in Privately Owned or Rented Homes

- Environmental modifications for people served through the Intellectual Disability/Related Disabilities (ID/RD) Waiver depend upon the participant's assessed needs and whether funding is available under the lifetime monetary cap of \$7,500. Procurement law and regulations apply along with specific restrictions and limits since federal Medicaid funding is being used.
- To be eligible for modifications, a privately owned or rented house or apartment must be sanitary, safe, adequately maintained, and architecturally feasible for cost-effective modification methods.
- The homeowner or landlord's permission must be obtained prior to evaluating the property for modification.
- Routine home maintenance, such as cleaning, painting, roof repair/replacement, gutter clearing, pest control, plumbing repairs, water damage repairs, floor repairs, appliance repairs, and yard work, are not provided as Environmental Modifications. These issues are the responsibility of the homeowner or landlord/tenant.
- Modifications are provided only to improve a participant's safety and functional independence in his/her home. Requests will only be considered for essential modifications, such as an entrance/exit ramp, widening of selected exterior/interior doorways, flooring to facilitate wheelchair movement, alterations to make a bathroom accessible, etc. Environmental Modifications may also include consultation and assessment to determine the specific needs and follow-up inspections upon completion of the project.
- Home additions (addition of square footage) are not allowed.
- Due to significant differences in the framework and flooring support structures used in mobile homes and manufactured housing, conventional ceramic tile showers/floors cannot be provided. The most appropriate and cost-effective solution is a pre-fabricated, accessible shower unit.
- Upgraded and expensive materials and fixtures, such as decorative marble or tile flooring/walls, brass faucets, wallpaper, etc., are not permitted.
- In some instances, modifications are not feasible because of architectural, sanitary, or other basic habitability considerations. When this is the case, the Waiver Case Manager and/or the Financial Manager may offer alternatives such as assistance in securing accessible public housing or another rental dwelling.
- The participant and any family members or other persons who live in the home or who would otherwise be affected by the completed modifications must agree to what work will be done before the request can be approved. Therefore, the participant and other homeowner/landlord must sign an agreement about the modifications before services can be authorized.
- Environmental modifications must be completed by a licensed contractor and comply with all local building ordinances.
- If unforeseen structural problems or damage are discovered after a modification project has started that resulted from pre-existing maintenance neglect, plumbing leaks, improper drainage, or termites, it will be the responsibility of the homeowner/landlord to correct the structural problems or damage before the modifications can continue.
- If any of the outlined specifications given to you by your Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist cannot be met due to architectural designs, you must notify your Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist prior to authorization of the project.

**S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
ID/RD WAIVER**

Environmental Modifications Project Agreement

- 1) I understand that the requested environmental modifications are being funded with public money. This consists primarily of federal Medicaid funding and a smaller portion of state funding. I understand that the lifetime cap for this service is \$7,500 and that it cannot be exceeded for any reason.
- 2) I have seen and agreed to the specifications for the requested environmental modifications. I understand that only what is in the approved specifications will be provided and funded.
- 3) I understand that under South Carolina state procurement law, the requested environmental modifications project must be awarded to the lowest qualified, responsible bidder.
- 4) I agree that I will not request or instruct the contractor to change any of the approved specifications after the project is awarded.
- 5) I agree that any additional work performed by the contractor must be separately negotiated between the contractor and homeowner and will be the sole financial responsibility of the homeowner.
- 6) I agree to work cooperatively with the contractor to ensure a positive working relationship during the course of the project.
- 7) I agree to be available during the project if the contractor needs to take measurements of me or my wheelchair or ask questions to ensure that I will benefit from these modifications.
- 8) If applicable, I understand that I must notify the DDSN Professional Design Team immediately if any unforeseen problems occur during the project.
- 9) I understand that if pre-existing home/property maintenance conditions or structural problems that affect the requested environmental modifications are identified after the project begins, work must be suspended until the problems are adequately resolved. I agree that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to correct these problems.

I have read, understand and agree to each of the above terms. I also understand that the requested environmental modifications cannot proceed without my signature below.

Signature of ID/RD Waiver Participant (if age 18 years or older)
OR

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian/Homeowner

Date

Signature of Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist

Date

**S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
ID/RD WAIVER**

Acknowledgment of Bid Submission for Environmental Modifications

Provider/Contractor: _____

Address: _____

Participant Name: _____

The _____ (Case Management/Early Intervention Provider) has received your bid in the amount of \$_____ for environmental modifications that are proposed for the above named ID/RD Waiver participant. Your bid will be reviewed along with others submitted. If your bid is approved, you will receive written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist (CM/EI). **Under no circumstance should you begin work on these environmental modifications without written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist.** ID/RD Waiver funding cannot be used to pay for a service that was initiated or provided prior to authorization. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number noted below.

CM/EI Provider: _____ CM/EI Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Signature of Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist

Date

Original: Provider/Contractor / Copy: File

Environmental Modification Project Agreement (PDT)

The homeowner and waiver participant/legal guardian must understand and agree with the terms below before the environmental modification can proceed.

	Participant/Legal Guardian Initials		Homeowner Initials
1		I understand that the requested environmental modifications are being funded with <u>public money</u> . This consists of federal Medicaid funding and state funding. I understand that the monetary limits for this service cannot be exceeded.	
2		I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the preliminary plans for the requested environmental modification prepared by the SCDDSN Professional Design Team. If optional floor plans were provided, option _____ has been selected. I understand that <u>only</u> what is in the approved specifications for the environmental modification will be provided and funded.	
3		I understand that if pre-existing home/property maintenance conditions or structural problems that affect the requested environmental modifications are identified after the project begins, work must be suspended until the problems are adequately resolved. I agree that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to correct these problems.	
4		I understand that under South Carolina state procurement the requested environmental modifications project <u>shall</u> be awarded to the lowest qualified, responsible and responsive bidder.	
5		I agree that I shall <u>not</u> request or instruct the contractor to change any of the approved specifications after the project is awarded.	
6		I agree to work cooperatively with the contractor to ensure a positive working relationship during the course of the project. I will clear the work area of all personal items prior to commencement of the work. I will not unnecessarily delay progress of the work.	
7		I agree to be available during the project if the contractor needs to take measurements or ask questions to ensure that these modifications will be of maximum benefit.	
8		I understand that I shall notify the waiver participant's case manager immediately if any unforeseen problems occur during the project.	

I have read, understand and agree to each of the above terms. I also understand that the requested environmental modification cannot proceed without my signature below. My signature on this form indicates that I am in agreement with the construction plans as indicated and would like to proceed with the environmental modification as outlined.

Name of Waiver Participant

Date

Signature of Waiver Participant/Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Homeowner

Date

Signature of Case Manager/Early Interventionist

Date

Environmental Modifications – Acknowledgement of Financial Responsibility

I, _____ (waiver participant or legal guardian), acknowledge that the ID/RD Waiver has a \$7,500 lifetime monetary cap. Any cost greater than the \$7,500 cap is my responsibility to pay the contractor.

The low bid for the requested modification totals \$ _____. As a result, I acknowledge that I am responsible to pay the overage, which totals \$ _____.

The contractor awarded the modification will be responsible for completing a separate contract with the homeowner/waiver participant denoting the portion of the work and costs that are the responsibility of the homeowner/waiver participant. The contractor will also outline the specific work and costs provided with waiver funding. This contract must be signed by the contractor, waiver participant and homeowner and a copy of the document must be provided to my case manager prior to authorization of the waiver funded portion of the modification.

In addition, should any issues arise during construction that require changes to the scope of work and incur additional costs, all these costs shall be my responsibility to pay. Payment must be rendered in full to the contractor at the time the work is completed.

The signature on this form certifies that I understand and agree to these terms and the payments required.

Signature of Waiver Participant or Legal Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Signature of the Home Owner: _____

Date: _____

Signature of the Case Manager: _____

Date: _____

Cc: Contractor