

Response to Questions on the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: Why does the Home Repair for the Elderly Program not include construction for wheelchair ramps and can that be included?

Response:

The Home Repair for the Elderly Program (HREP) provides free labor and up to \$500 in materials for minor home repairs and maintenance. Funding is from the Community Development Block Grant, and eligible homeowners are those who are handicapped or disabled, or who are elderly and of low- and moderate-income.

Most wheelchair ramps cost significantly more than \$500 in materials and often require building permits, engineered drawings, designers who are knowledgeable about building code requirements, and licensed contractors to do the work. HREP employees are not licensed contractors or designers and do not perform any work that requires a license or permit.

However, the construction of wheelchair ramps is eligible under the Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP). HILP assists County residents in making improvements to their homes through low-interest loans.