



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Frederick Grant Supports Seniors Aging in Place

Frederick, MD --- Advocates for the Aging of Frederick County has received a \$20,000 grant from the City of Frederick supporting Advocates' Assistive Devices Program for low-income seniors in both rental and resident-owned housing.

The Assistive Devices Program provides and installs appropriate and medically necessary assistive devices for the bathroom and bedroom, for mobility, ramps, recliners, grab bars, special grab bars, and Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) without cost to low-income seniors who are residents of Frederick County, who meet agreement criteria and compliance, including income guidelines. Based on previous fiscal year figures, the City's grant, made through the Community Promotion Grants Program, will fund the purchase of approximately 300 assistive devices to serve 250+ individuals, of whom approximately 165 would be City residents, for approximately one quarter (3 months) of the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Since the program began in September 2021, Advocates has served more than 575 low-income senior Frederick City residents, placing 1,121 devices in their homes, whether it is rental housing or resident owned. By serving seniors living in rental housing, Advocates is extending its reach into the area's historically economically disadvantaged communities of color and continues to work on language barriers that have limited our contacts in newer ethnically diverse areas of the City.

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Advocates conducts continuous community outreach through our healthcare, social service and EMS partners, as well as houses of worship, community service organizations and senior activities. Given the age and income level of the program's constituency, the best marketing of the program is through trusted individuals known to the senior in need.

"Given the dearth of affordable senior housing in Frederick City and County, and the fact that there is no government support for assisted living, it is important to support the ability of low-income seniors to age in place in their current homes," explained Melanie Cox, President of the Advocates Board of Directors. "Our program improves the lives of seniors, upgrades current affordable senior housing in the City, and makes it more accessible for senior residents, and helps seniors live in the mainstream of neighborhoods throughout the community, not just in age-specific apartment buildings."

The Assistive Devices Program has received funding from Frederick County Government through the ARPA Grant Program as well as from the CDC Foundation, the Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County, and the Donald C. Linton Fund at the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

For more information about the Assistive Devices Program, please email Sherry Fulton, Project Coordinator, at grabbarsproject@gmail.com.