



# ICAP Receives Ramp Up Indiana's First Grant

By **Teresa Turner**, Public Relations & Advocacy Manager

Nineteen percent of Indiana's population has some form of mobility related disability. Ramps are one of the most common modifications made or requested by homeowners with a household member who is a user of a wheelchair or has a mobility impairment. Ramps can accommodate a broad range of physical needs and requirements, increase safety and reduce the risk of falling, and help maintain a person's independence. They also allow for aging-in-place in the home.

However, with an average ramp installation cost ranging between \$1,000-\$1,500, many people who need a ramp are unable to afford to have one installed. That is where the Ramp-Up Indiana program comes in. The program provides grants to not-for-profit organizations for the installation of exterior ramps to homes occupied by people who need to improve the accessibility of their home. Ramp-Up Indiana funds will help build exterior metal or wooden ramps and can also be used to widen exterior doors so wheelchairs can move in and out more easily.

In November, IHCD awarded a full grant of \$25,000 through the Ramp-Up Indiana program to the Interlocal Community Action Program, Inc. (ICAP) in New Castle, Indiana for their "Hope for Home Access" program. ICAP was established in 1965 under the Economic Opportunities Act as one of Indiana's 22 Community Action Agencies. Their

Hope for Home Access program will build handicap ramps for elderly or disabled homeowners in Fayette, Hancock, Henry, Rush and Wayne counties. Kevin Polivick, Executive Director at ICAP said, "Interlocal Community Action recognizes the growing need to make residential homes more accessible for the elderly and disabled. Installing handicap ramps will allow more individuals to remain at home with a higher quality of life. We much appreciate the RAMP UP funding from IHCD and Home Depot's match grant as we prepare to install 10 ramps in our 5-county service area."

ICAP also obtained a \$5,000 match through a Community Impact Grant from The Home Depot Foundation. The Home Depot Foundation awards grants to nonprofits that are working

to improve the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans and their families. The number of veterans living in the service area is estimated at 18,637\*.

Eligible beneficiaries of the Ramp Up Indiana pilot program are limited to homeowners who are at or below 80 percent of the area median income. To learn more about the Hope for Home Access program, contact Holly Lee at ICAP by calling 765-288-8732.

Non-profit organizations seeking opportunities to participate in the Ramp-Up Indiana program can find more information at <http://www.in.gov/ihcda/rampupindiana.htm>.

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\*American Community Survey 2010-2014 five-year estimates.