G3 General

Inspections Division
Date: 12/05/14

Serving Maine Since 1978

alpha One

The Critical Access Ramp Program

The critical Access ramp program is a project provided through funding from Maine's Office of Community Development, Maine State Housing, and HUD. It is designed to enable people to obtain a well-built wheelchair ramp for their home quickly and efficiently. Families and individuals with low to moderate incomes who are not able to enter or leave their home because of an inability to use stairs would have an opportunity to obtain a wheelchair ramp within approximately 2-3 weeks anywhere in Maine. The program will address several critical obstacles faced by people in the past: Getting a ramp quickly , getting a functioning and safe ramp that meets applicable codes, requirements, and recommendations, and getting a high quality ramp that can go with a person when they move.

A comprehensive independent living evaluation will be done at a person's home by Alpha One and will include a site evaluation for a ramp. Modular ramp components will be pre-fabricated out of pressure treated wood and stockpiled in ready-to-go inventories. Trained, professional installers would then pick up, deliver, and build the modules into a ramp quickly and efficiently. People would not have to go into nursing homes, miss essential medical treatments, or remain trapped in their homes isolated from family and community. The components can also be disassembled and re-built if the consumer moves to a new location – people would not have to seek funds to build a new ramp each time they moved. This program will also be available to families and individuals who rent and will not be limited to homeowners only (home wonership is a requirement for most grant and low-interest loan programs.

The problem of obtaining ramps has been a long term barrier for people with disabilities and promises to grow more urgent in the years to come as we all age and more and more of us need ramps. This program is a giant step toward meeting that need in a comprehensive and effective way.