

The agencies listed in the next section, which offer assistance to low-income households, may also have lists of contractors who do particular types of home modifications (e.g., installing ramps, chairlifts, accessibility modifications) and whose insurance and references have been checked.

### **Help for Low-Income Households**

#### **Tompkins County Office for the Aging (COFA)**

**320 N. Tioga St., Ithaca, NY 14850**

**274-5486**

**[www.tompkins-co.org/cofa](http://www.tompkins-co.org/cofa)**

In addition to helping older adults meet their energy-related needs, the Weatherization and Home Repair program (WRAP) assists income-eligible seniors (60+) in identifying and applying for funds for home repairs and health and safety related issues. There are also programs to fund home modifications and assistive technology that prevent the need for nursing home placement.

#### **Finger Lakes Independence Center (FLIC)**

**215 Fifth St., Ithaca, NY 14850**

**Voice/TTY 272-2433**

**[www.fliconline.org](http://www.fliconline.org)**

FLIC offers information & referral for accessible housing, advocacy and other disability issues. Staff can visit your home for consultations, to make suggestions for improving building accessibility and to review architectural plans prior to construction.

#### **Better Housing for Tompkins County**

**950 Danby Rd., Suite 102, Ithaca, NY 14850**

**273-2187**

**[www.betterhousingtc.org](http://www.betterhousingtc.org)**

Better Housing offers several programs to income-eligible households. Their home repair program for senior or disabled homeowners provides small home

repairs and modifications, charging only for the materials. They can repair stairs, install handrails, grab bars, comfort-height toilets, walk-in showers, install light switches, do other minor electrical projects, and patch loose flooring (tripping hazards). The *Access to Home Program* provides funding for safety and comfort measures for low-to-moderate income disabled homeowners or those living with a disabled family member. Home accessibility improvements include, but are not limited to:

- \*Ramps, lifts, handrails, stair glides, doorway access
- \*Roll-in showers, grab bars and seats
- \*Easy-to-reach kitchen work and storage areas
- \*Modifications for the visually and hearing impaired
- \*Placement of bathroom or bedroom on the first floor
- \*Special thermostatic and environmental controls

**Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS)**

**115 W. Clinton St., Ithaca, NY 14850**

**273-2453**

**[www.ithacanhhs.org](http://www.ithacanhhs.org)**

Repair grants and deferred loans are available for people who need important, basic repairs but can't afford to make loan payments, provided they meet income guidelines. The SHARP (Small Home Repair Program ) is the only program, at this time, which is limited to serving City of Ithaca residents. It is open to persons, who are 62+, disabled, or single head of household. SHARP repairs can include stairs and handrails, grab bars, minor repairs to porches and flooring, sidewalks (tripping hazards), lighting, and light switches.

**Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation**

**935 East Ave., Suite 300, Rochester, NY 14607**

**585-657-4114**

**[www.sheenhousing.org](http://www.sheenhousing.org)**

Sheen Housing assists families, seniors, and persons with disabilities who need housing repair assistance to maintain their residences, elevate their quality of life and eliminate threats to their health and safety. Emergency Home Repair grants are subject to family size and household income guidelines. Sheen Housing also provides *Access to Home* grants to fund accessibility modifications for persons with disabilities.

**U.S.D.A. Rural Development**

**1 N. Main St., Cortland NY 13045 753-0851, ext. 4**

**[www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-R](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-R) **Loans Grants.html****

*(Serves several counties in this region including Tompkins)*

Rehabilitation Loans and Grants: the *Very Low Income Housing Repair Program* provides loans and grants to low-income homeowners, age 62+, to repair or improve their dwellings or to remove health and safety hazards.

**Community Faith Partners**

**P.O. Box 4774, Ithaca, NY 14851**

**279-0105 (Barry Segal) [www.communityfaithpartners.org](http://www.communityfaithpartners.org)**

Helps widows, older people, single moms and persons with special needs maintain the physical condition of their homes and avoid costly repairs through timely advice, congregation-based assistance, and referral to professionals. When assistance is requested, a designated coordinator visits the site, together with someone from their congregation, to assess the issues. Services are offered two times per year, usually in May and September. Jobs, limited to four to six hours, are done by college students and local volunteers.