

17.7 Environmental Modifications

Procedure Codes	Rates	Units	Additional Descriptor	Budget Component
S5165HI	Reasonable & Customary	Single	NA	Individual/Family Supports

17.7.1 Description

Those physical adaptations to the private residence of the participant or the participant's family, based on assessment and as required by the participant's Service Plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home. Such adaptations include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or the installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies that are necessary for the welfare of the participant.

17.8.2 Service Limits

All services shall be provided in accordance with applicable State or local building codes and are subject to prior approval on an individual basis by the Division. Excluded items are those adaptations or improvements to the home that are of general utility, and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant. Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home are excluded from this benefit except when necessary to complete an adaptation (e.g., in order to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair).

17.8.3 Provider Qualifications

All providers of Environmental Modification services must comply with the standards set forth in this manual.

In addition, Environmental Modifications providers must meet the following:

- Contractors must be registered contractors per N.J.S.A. 56:8-136; -AND-
- Licensed in the State of NJ for specific service to be rendered (i.e. Electrical, plumbing, general contractor); -AND-
- Service provided must be provided in accordance with applicable state or local building codes.

17.8.4 Examples of Environmental Modifications

*Please note that examples are not all inclusive of everything that can be funded through this service

- Ramps
- Grab-bars
- Widening of doorways
- Modifications of bathrooms
- Emergency generator for equipment
- Air filters/humidifiers
- Stair lifts
- Ceiling track systems for transfers

17.8.5 Environmental Modifications Policies/Standards

In addition to the standards set forth in this manual, the service provider and staff must comply with relevant licensing and/or certification standards.

17.8.5.1 Need for Service and Process for Choice of Provider

The need for an Environmental Modification will be identified through the NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJ CAT) and the person centered planning process documented in the Person Centered Planning Tool (PCPT). In addition, the following steps must be completed in order to access Environmental Modifications:

- The Support Coordinator will assist the individual in identifying an approved Assistive Technology provider to conduct an evaluation in order to ensure the Environmental Modification will benefit the individual and is completed correctly for the individual's needs;
- The Support Coordinator will submit a request to conduct the Assistive Technology evaluation through iRecord for Division review and approval;
- The Division will review the evaluation request and provide a determination. This determination may be to skip the evaluation if necessary information is already available (through a previous evaluation, for example);
- If "approved," by the Division, the Support Coordinator will add Assistive Technology to the ISP and utilize the Assistive Technology Evaluation procedure code (T2028HI);
- Upon approval of the ISP, the Assistive Technology provider conducts the evaluation as prior authorized and submits the completed evaluation and supporting documents to the Support Coordinator;
- Once the evaluation has been completed (or if the evaluation step has been skipped as approved by the Division), the Support Coordinator will submit a request and additional details for the Division to review and approve the Environmental Modification itself;
- Once the Environmental Modification is approved, the Support Coordinator will add Environmental Modification to the ISP; and
- The Environmental Modification provider will render services as prior authorized by the approved ISP and claim to Medicaid (if they are a Medicaid provider) or submit an invoice to the Fiscal Intermediary (if not a Medicaid provider).

If the available/remaining Individual/Family Supports budget does not cover the entire cost of the Environmental Modification, the individual/family may pay for the difference in order to get the work completed.

Questions or concerns that are related to this process can be directed to the Service Approval Help Desk at DDD.ServiceApprovalHelpdesk@dhs.state.nj.us.

17.8.5.2 Documentation & Record Keeping

Documentation of the delivery of service must be maintained to substantiate claims. This documentation should include the date, start and end times, and number of units of the delivered service for each individual and must align with the prior authorization received for the provision of services.