Interim Housing Accessibility Improvement Fund:

Request for Application

Key Dates

Application Opens: Wednesday, August 27th, 2025, at 12:00pm

Application Informational Webinar: Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, from 11:00am-12:00pm

Application Closes: Thursday, August 31st, 2028, *or when all funds have been expended*.

Background

Individuals with disabilities are more likely to experience homelessness due to barriers accessing healthcare, employment, and housing services that meet their basic needs. According to the 2023 LAHSA Homeless Count, about one in three adults experiencing homelessness reported having a physical disability, a population that is disproportionately represented in Los Angeles County, where an estimated 75,518 individuals are experiencing homelessness on any given night. Additionally, a recent Interim Housing Inventory Report compiled by the Department of Public Health (DPH) Specialized Surveillance and Enforcement Branch- Housing and Institutions Program, reported a minimum of 57 interim housing sites operating a mixture of up to 2,300 stabilization and recuperative beds throughout Los Angeles County have been identified as being at risk of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violation and in need of resources to accomplish accessibility improvements.

To address this growing concern, Brilliant Corners, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Housing for Health Division and with funding from L.A. Care Health Plan and Health Net through the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP), is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity to support accessibility improvements in interim housing facilities across Los Angeles County. The goal of this program is to ensure that people with accessibility needs can safely access interim housing facilities, receive basic care and stabilizing services and enroll in resources to reduce the likelihood of falling back into homelessness. The Interim Housing Accessibility Improvement Fund will provide grant funding and technical assistance to help providers in Los Angeles County improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities and reduce barriers to safe shelter.

Selected applicants who meet the eligibility criteria outlined below and whose proposed project aligns with the goals of this grant will be awarded one-time funds on a first-come, first-served basis from August 27th, 2025, through August 31, 2028, *or until all available funding has been distributed*. Due to the anticipated high demand for these grant funds, we strongly encourage providers to apply as soon as they have identified the necessary accessibility improvements for their facility.

Eligibility

To be eligible for accessibility improvement grant funding, organizations must meet all the following criteria:

- Be an active 501(c)(3) entity, in active and good standing with the IRS, providing interim housing services.
- Meet the definition of an interim housing provider as determined by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for Los Angeles County: "An intervention that provides people experiencing homelessness with temporary housing intended to resolve their immediate experience of unsheltered homelessness, to connect participants to permanent housing opportunities in their communities, and to provide various other services."
- Be able to show proof of ownership of the property where accessibility improvements will be made OR submit a completed Owner Participation Agreement form signed by the owner of the property.
- Operate in and primarily serve clients in Los Angeles County.

Award Amount

Applicants may request a maximum of $100,000 in grant funding to implement accessibility improvement projects at an interim housing site. A full project budget must be submitted with the application. Funding may be used towards larger renovation projects at interim housing sites provided there is clear demonstration that these funds will be used to support accessibility upgrades.

Limit one application per facility. Interim housing providers operating multiple facilities at different addresses may submit separate applications for each site. However, each operator is limited to a maximum of three applications in total.

Accessibility Improvement Categories

Funds awarded by this grant must be used for accessibility-related construction projects that are ineligible for funding by other public funding sources. Eligible projects may fall into one or more categories. Examples in the table below are not exhaustive, but reflect common facility upgrades that can increase safety, quality of life, and the ability to serve clients with disabilities or other accessibility-related needs.

Custom projects may also qualify, provided they meet the requirements listed below.

Category	Description	Example Improvements
Mobility Access	Supports safe movement for individuals using mobility aids	• Widened doorways • Portable or permanent ramps

		• Storage for mobility aids • Wall-mounted grab bars/bed rails • Power-operated doors
Bathroom Accessibility & Safety	Enhances safety and usability of bathrooms and bathing areas	• Roll-in/walk-in showers • Raised toilet seats or commodes • Drop-down benches or wall-mounted shower seats • Non-slip flooring • Improved lighting • Universal plumbing fixtures
Bariatric Accessibility	Supports clients with higher body weights or mobility needs	• Bariatric beds and reinforced seating • Structural reinforcement • Accessible unit conversions
Visual & Hearing Accessibility	Improves navigation and safety for clients with sensory disabilities	• Tactile/Braille signage • Visual strobes/audible alarms • Improved lighting and contrast
Multi-Resident ADA Safety	Enhances shared environments and accommodations	• ADA-compliant dining areas • Safe travel pathways • Accessible storage solutions

Dorm/Sleeping Area Accessibility	Enhances safety and usability of sleeping areas	• Widening doorways • Lowering bed heights or providing adjustable beds • Clearing floor space

Encouraged Project Types: Permanent, Facility-based Accessibility Improvements

To ensure lasting impact, applicants are strongly encouraged to propose permanent, facility-based accessibility improvements that address shared environmental barriers and increase long-term usability for current and future clients.

Examples of high-impact, facility-level improvements include:

- Wall mounted grab bars and fold-down shower benches
- Fixed ramps and widened doorways
- ADA-compliant lighting, signage, or entry systems
- Bathroom renovations that improve safety and dignity in shared settings
- Accessible storage or furnishings designed to remain on-site

These types of modifications are preferred because they:

- Improve access for multiple clients over time
- Remain usable regardless of client turnover
- Reduce the need for staff-dependent or temporary workarounds, e.g., move equipment when not in use into storage
- Are less likely to duplicate benefits available through Medi-Cal or individual insurance

When are portable or individual-use items appropriate?

Items such as portable shower chairs, 3-in-1 commodes, or raised toilet seats should only be proposed if:

- Permanent installation is not feasible due to,
  - Structural limitations (e.g., bathroom too small for built-in modifications)
  - Property ownership or lease restrictions that prohibit installation
  - Temporary or transitional site use
- AND the item will be retained on-site for shared use in a communal setting, not issued for individual use or taken off-site.

Custom Projects

Projects not listed here may still qualify if they:

- Address a clear accessibility barrier
- Demonstrate clear impact in addressing specific accessibility barrier
- Fall below the $100,000 budget cap
- Align with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Applicants must cite the relevant ADA standard or guidance when proposing a custom project.

Cost Guidance

- Applicants are required to consult with a contractor or other qualified vendor and develop a detailed working budget prior to submitting their application.
- Due to California law, accessibility improvement projects funded by this grant will trigger prevailing wage rates. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their contractor and/or a prevailing wage consultant about prevailing wage when preparing project budgets. Any costs related to prevailing wage (labor and/or consultant fees) can be included in the overall budget.
- When preparing project budgets, applicants must ensure that their grant request does not exceed the program's $100,000 funding limit.

Application Process

Submission Process

This application will remain open from August 27, 2025, to August 31, 2028, or until all grant funds have been awarded.

Applications will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis. Site visits may be required for Brilliant Corners to further assess scope of work and project budget before awarding funds.

The link to the application can be found here: Brilliant Corners Website. Applicants must submit their application through the portal on the website. Physical or email submissions will not be accepted.

If applicants have any issues submitting their online application, they can email IHaccessibility@brilliantcorners.org with the subject line [*Your Organization – Grant Application Issue] and a member of the Brilliant Corners team will help resolve it within 72 hours.*

Applicant Expectations

The following document templates will be included in the online application portal and must be submitted with each application:

- Project Schedule
- Project Budget
- Owner Participation Agreement signed and dated by the current owner of the property
- General Contractor Agreement Form signed and filled out by the applicant and contractor

- In addition to the templates listed above, qualified applicants will also be required to attach the following documentation in their application:

- Bids from a minimum of 2 licensed General Contractors, Accessibility Renovation Specialists, or other qualified vendors are required for projects with budgets exceeding $5,000.
  - Projects totaling less than $5,000 will not require multiple bids, but all costs must still be detailed in the budget template.
- All permitting requirements
  - The need for permits should be discussed with the contractor the applicant chooses to award.

If your project requires permits, be sure to include all related permitting costs in your budget, outline the expected permitting timeline in your project schedule, and confirm permit requirements with your contractor before submitting your application.

- IRS Designation Letter confirming organization's 501(c)(3) status.
- If selecting an accessibility improvement not listed under the "Funding Categories" section, applicants must cite the specific ADA standard that supports the proposed improvement.

Reference documents may be pulled from the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design PDF.

Post-Award Requirements

Once funds are awarded, the grant period will last 12 months. During this period, recipients must submit a progress report within 6 months of receiving funding. A final report is due 30 days after the grant period ends.

Reporting templates will be included in the Award Notification Letter and are required to be submitted via email to IHaccessibility@brilliantcorners.org. Awardees are also required to submit photos of the project site before and after accessibility modifications have been made.

Further details about reporting procedures will be provided in the Award Notification Letter.

Application Assistance

Brilliant Corners is committed to helping all eligible organizations access this funding opportunity. For questions or application support, email IHaccessibility@brilliantcorners.org with the subject line "[*Your Organization}* - Grant Application Assistance."

Our team will respond within 72 hours.

An informational webinar will be held on **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, from 11:00am-12:00pm** to walk applicants through the process. Topics will include eligibility, required documentation, selecting an improvement project, and how to fill out budget, scope of work, and project schedule templates, navigating General Contractor selection and Agreement Form, and any other questions regarding the application process. For those who cannot make the webinar, it will be recorded and posted to the application landing page on the Brilliant Corners website.

Please click **here** to register for the informational webinar.

A Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheet, along with a form for submitting additional inquiries, will also be available on the Brilliant Corners Website to further support providers through the application process.

Review and Selection

All applicants will undergo an initial review to confirm:

- Application completeness
- Eligibility criteria are met
- Alignment with the program goals

For applications that meet all eligibility requirements, award notification letters are typically issued within 30 days of submission, pending funding availability. This timeline may be extended for custom projects, those requiring site visits, or projects with more complex scopes of work. Final award decisions and timelines are at the discretion of Brilliant Corners.

If clarifications are needed to finalize an application, a Brilliant Corners team member will contact the applicant.

Applicants that do not meet eligibility criteria, or who fall outside the scope of the accessibility improvement program, will not be funded.

Award Notification

Award decisions will begin October 1, 2025. All applicants will receive an email from IHaccessibility@brilliantcorners.org with the subject line "Brilliant Corners – Accessibility Improvement Grant Award Decision"