



Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Program Builder Informational Series



Recommended Adaptations (RAs)

VA Recommended Adaptations (RAs) for SAH Construction Projects

The SAH grant program is designed to enhance the lives of Veterans by providing them with accessible housing and making adaptations that may benefit their independence.

VA has established Minimum Property Requirements (MPRs) to help ensure that adapted housing meets the needs of a Veteran using SAH grants. These MPRs address specific adaptations in the areas of ingress, egress, primary bathrooms, and primary bedrooms.

Recommended Adaptations (RAs) are suggested modifications above and beyond the MPRs.

As an approved SAH builder, it is important that you are familiar with VA's Recommended Adaptations and that you are prepared to discuss requested modifications with the Veteran.



Recommended Adaptations (RAs) for SAH Grants (1 of 3)

The list of RAs is substantial, but not all-inclusive. Therefore, if a Veteran desires an adaptation not included in this list, a request must be submitted by the Veteran, along with justification for the adaptation. RAs for the following areas may be considered reasonably necessary in SAH cases:

- Doorways and hallways
- Garages, carports, and passageways
- Driveways and exterior walkways
- Bathrooms
- Bedrooms
- Kitchens
- Maintenance-Free materials
- Heating and air conditioning
- Electrical equipment
- Security and emergency equipment
- Windows
- Flooring materials
- Laundry room



Additional details regarding RAs can be accessed in [VA Policy Manual 26-12, Appendix B](https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/M26_12.asp)
(https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/M26_12.asp)

Recommended Adaptations (RAs) for SAH Grants (2 of 3)



The Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant is designed primarily to assist Veterans who:

- have lost the use of their hands, or
- have certain severe burn or respiratory injuries.

It may be used to:

- adapt a home that will be acquired,
- adapt a home that a family member will acquire,
- adapt a home that is already owned,
- adapt a home that is already owned by a family member or purchased, or
- reduce the unpaid balance on the cost of a home that has already been adapted with special features that VA has determined are reasonably necessary.

Recommended Adaptations (RAs) for SAH Grants (3 of 3)

The list of RAs is substantial, but not all-inclusive. Therefore, if a Veteran desires an adaptation not included in this list, a request must be submitted by the Veteran, along with justification for the adaptation. RAs for the following areas may be considered reasonably necessary for SHA grants:

- special lighting
- doors
- handrails/grab bars
- smoke, fire, and carbon monoxide detectors
- security items
- room additions
- covered porches
- hard surface walkways
- fencing
- electrical service
- swimming pools
- safety defect corrections
- equipment related to accommodating a service dog assigned to the Veteran

Additional details regarding SHA grants can be accessed in [VA Policy Manual 26-12](https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/M26_12.asp), Appendix B (https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/M26_12.asp)



Determining RAs: SAH and SHA

Prior to engaging a builder, a Veteran will discuss their case with an SAH Agent who will assist the Veteran in using a modular approach to adapting their housing unit – helping the Veteran choose RAs on an as needed or as desired basis, once the MPRs have been satisfied.

As the Veteran's builder they will then discuss their requested adaptations with you.

There is a need for flexibility and the exercise of good judgment based on the **physical capabilities and limitations** of each Veteran. Equally important is the need to anticipate the Veteran's **future needs**.

Important Reminder!



Although the purpose of creating RAs is to introduce greater flexibility to the SAH grant program, it is important to note that grant funds must only be used for adaptations that benefit the Veteran.

Grant funds cannot be used to cure deferred maintenance.



Key Points

Recommended Adaptations (RAs) are suggested modifications above and beyond the MPRs.

Take into consideration the Veteran's current (and potential future) needs and limitations when discussing adaptations. This may allow you to see additional modifications that may benefit them.



How to Learn More...

To learn more about the SAH program and the builder-specific requirements for participating in these meaningful programs, check out the other titles in our Builder Informational Series.