

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Home Mod Connection

Thrive for Life LLC, led by Catia Garell and in partnership with the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and key stakeholders, will conduct the Home Mod Connection project with the **mission** to maximize at-risk older adults' engagement in their communities by improving the supportiveness of their home environments. The **goal:** to create a remote home assessment to increase access to home modifications (HMs) for rural older adults (65+) with disabilities that affect one or more major life activities. This project will address NIDILRR's major outcome domain of community living and participation. **Outcomes:** 1) a remote web-based home assessment tool with a user-friendly interface that connects consumers and professionals to identify HM solutions with efficient project completion; 2) increased assessments and improved home environments for older adults with disabilities; and 3) a platform where funding sources can identify Return on Investment and geographical needs; 4) Streamlined home assessment process for Medicare, Medicaid, and other public and private health insurance programs to expedite HM coverage; 5) A system for hospitals to facilitate home assessments to reduce readmission rates, increase Medicare reimbursement, and maximize Return on Investment; 6) Tool for non-profits and for-profits to collect home environment information that promotes community living and participation; and 7) A training program for providers on home assessments to ensure best practice guidelines are utilized.