BACKGROUND

The LaGrange County Council on Aging recognizes that in order for senior citizens and those with disabilities to remain in their home certain home modifications may become necessary.

In 2007, the LaGrange County Council on Aging established a program to provide or assist senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with an opportunity to have the use of a wheel chair ramp at their home. The wheel chair ramp can be used not only for the homeowner, but for friends and family members who are visiting. The funding of this program depends in part upon the income level of the client who is requesting a ramp. Donations are always welcome.

Once the need for a wheel chair ramp has been determined by the Council on Aging, it will be installed for the client. The client becomes responsible for any and all risks associated with the use of the ramp agrees to the terms of the General Release. The client further agrees to properly maintain the ramp, remove snow and ice and restrict the use of the ramp to the purpose for which it was intended. When there is no longer a need for the wheel chair ramp, the LaGrange County Council on Aging will be contacted by the client so that the ramp can be removed and used again for another client.

Program “A” - Low Income Assistance

The LaGrange County Council on Aging will provide and install a wheel chair ramp for low income seniors or those with disabilities. For a single person living in their home, the income may not be greater than $21,660. For a married person living in their home, the income may not be greater than $29,140.

PROGRAM “A” CRITERIA:

1). The client completes an application for a wheel chair ramp and provides a copy of their most recent Federal Income Return to the LaGrange County Council on Aging.

2). The LaGrange County Council on Aging will review (through its Aging in Place committee) the application and determine if the installation of a wheel chair ramp is needed; the client is otherwise eligible; and, if the site allows a ramp to be safely installed. The LaGrange County Council on Aging reserves the right not to install a wheel chair ramp for reasons it deems appropriate.

3). A set of specifications will be drawn up by the LaGrange County Council on Aging, including a site plan and the cost estimates for the installation of a ramp. The specifications will include the elevation, landings, need for hand rails, bumpers and other items required to install the ramp in a safe and secure manner.

4). The installation of a ramp that is to be returned or donated to the LaGrange County Council on Aging is considered to be a temporary or non-permanent structure. When it
is no longer needed, it is to be returned to the LaGrange County Council on Aging and not sold with the property or left behind for a landlord.

5). The client needs to work with the LaGrange County Council on Aging to determine if any building permits or inspections are required before the ramp is approved and installed.

6). The LaGrange County Council on Aging will purchase the necessary materials to build a ramp and provide volunteers to install the ramp. The date and time of installation shall be at the convenience of the LaGrange County Council on Aging with the homeowners input.

7). The client agrees to hold the LaGrange County Council on Aging, its agents and volunteers harmless during both the installation and ongoing use of the ramp. The client agrees to the terms of the General Release.

8). The client further agrees to notify their insurance company about the installation of the ramp and provide the LaGrange County Council on Aging with proof of liability insurance.

9). The client further agrees to notify the LaGrange County Council on Aging when the ramp is no longer needed so that the client can return it to the agency.

10). The client agrees that the LaGrange County Council on Aging may write and publish articles, news releases, brochures and pictures of the ramp and its volunteers. The homeowner may also agree to have their picture(s) included in these releases and materials.

Program “B” – Owner purchases material
The LaGrange County Council on Aging will install a wheel chair ramp with the use of volunteers. The homeowner is responsible for payment all of the needed materials and for agreeing to donate the wheel chair ramp to the LaGrange County Council on Aging when it is no longer needed by the homeowner for its original use.

PROGRAM “B” CRITERIA:
1). The LaGrange County Council on Aging will review (through its Aging in Place committee) the application and determine if the installation of a wheel chair ramp is needed; the client is otherwise eligible; and, if the site allows a ramp to be safely installed. The LaGrange County Council on Aging reserves the right not to install a wheel chair ramp for reasons it deems appropriate.

2). A set of specifications will be drawn up by the LaGrange County Council on Aging, including a site plan and the cost estimates for the installation of a ramp. The specifications will include the elevation, landings, need for hand rails, bumpers and other items required to install a ramp in a safe and secure manner.

3) The installation of a ramp that is to be returned or donated to the LaGrange County Council on Aging is considered to be a temporary or non-permanent structure. When it
is no longer needed, it is to be returned to the LaGrange County Council on Aging and not sold with the property or left behind for a landlord.

4). The client needs to work with the LaGrange County Council on Aging to determine if any building permits or inspections are required before the ramp is approved and installed.

5). Once the LaGrange County Council on Aging has agreed to install a ramp, the client will make payment to the LaGrange County Council on Aging for the cost of materials and supplies prior to setting an installation date.

6). The LaGrange County Council on Aging will purchase the necessary materials to build a ramp and provide volunteers to install the ramp. The date and time of installation shall be at the convenience of the LaGrange County Council on Aging with the clients input.

7). The client agrees to hold the LaGrange County Council on Aging, its agents and volunteers harmless during both the installation and ongoing use of the ramp. The client agrees to the terms of the General Release.

8). The client further agrees to notify their insurance company about the installation of the ramp and provide the LaGrange County Council on Aging with proof of liability insurance.

9). The client further agrees to notify the LaGrange County Council on Aging when the ramp is no longer needed so that the client can return it to the agency.

10). The client agrees that the LaGrange County Council on Aging may write and publish articles, news releases, brochures and pictures of the ramp and its volunteers. The homeowner may also agree to have their picture(s) included in these releases and materials.

**OTHER**

If the homeowner is not eligible for program A and chooses not to participate in program B, but has an interest in purchasing and paying for the installation of a ramp outside of these programs, the LaGrange County Council on Aging will make a referral to a certified aging in place specialist.

In special emergencies, the LaGrange County Council on Aging may choose to install a temporary ramp and request a future donation from a client.