

# **The ALS Association's Maurer Heinsen Family Home Access Program FAQs**

## **Q: Who is this program for?**

A: Anyone living with ALS/PLS/PMA and registered with The ALS Association and living in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

## **Q: Does everyone qualify for the program?**

A: No, the program is designed to help those who do not have benefits to help cover the cost of the ramp. If the applicant has veteran's benefits, county assistance, or long-term care insurance, they will be asked to contact the provider of those programs for assistance.

## **Q: What is a modular ramp?**

A: A modular ramp is an aluminum ramp composed of different ramp and platform sections, designed to fit together securely to create a ramp layout that works for the individual's home and landscape.

## **Q: Is a modular or wooden ramp better?**

A: While both materials are great options, the modular ramp allows greater flexibility to adapt the ramp to meet the needs of those living with ALS. The ramps are not permanent, like a wooden ramp, and can be reused in our program multiple times. It also is easier to maintain and install.

## **Q: How do I know if this program is right for me?**

A: Most homes can accommodate a modular ramp, however, an in-person or virtual home safety assessment will be completed by an occupational or physical therapist to make sure your home is appropriate for ramp installation.

## **Q: What if I have a Homeowners Association?**

A: We will need written verification from your HOA that they approve ramp installation. Most HOAs will approve ramp installation but may have guidelines that will need to be followed.

## **Q: Who installs the ramp?**

A: We partner with local accessibility experts trained in designing and installing modular ramps across Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

## **Q: Can I use my own vendor?**

A: No, in order to provide equitable and reliable service to those using the program, an ALS Association-approved vendor must be used.

**Q: Does the ALS Association cover the total cost of the program?**

A: No, this is a cost-share program, meaning The ALS Association will cover a portion of the cost of the ramp. This can be done by using ramp sections that have been previously purchased or donated to our program or covering a portion of the new materials needed.

**Q: What costs am I responsible for?**

A: We ask that the end user pay for the installation and removal of the ramp, as well as any new material that cannot be covered by The ALS Association. These costs will be determined by the program manager and reviewed with you before scheduling installation.

**Q: What if I cannot afford my portion of the ramp costs?**

A: ALS Association staff can discuss this and assist you with looking at additional resources for coverage.

**Q: Will the ALS Association help pay for an existing ramp?**

A: No, we are not able to assist with pre-existing projects.

**Q: How much does a modular ramp cost?**

A: The average cost for a modular ramp in the Midwest is \$8,000.

**Q: When will I be expected to pay my portion of the cost?**

A: Payment is due at the time of installation.

**Q: What do I do with the ramp when I am no longer using it?**

A: All portions of the ramp that are purchased by The ALS Association must be returned to continue to offset costs for future users. We ask that families donate pieces/materials that they have purchased back to the program, so they can “pay it forward”.

**Q: What do I do if I have additional questions?**

A: Reach out to the program manager at [homeaccessnct@als.org](mailto:homeaccessnct@als.org), or call 612-672-0484 and a team member can connect you with someone who can answer your questions.