



HOME **AID** PROGRAM

What Is The HomeAID Program?

Previously known as “Clear Paths”, the **HomeAID Program** provides limited seasonal services to disabled New Bedford homeowners. The program covers snow removal for disabled homeowners who need access to/from home to **obtain critical medical treatment or receive caregivers**. Depending upon the availability of funds, limited lawn/garden clean-up will also be provided to those homeowners who received snow removal assistance.

Who Is Eligible?

Disabled New Bedford homeowners **with a documented need to access medical services who are a) unable to shovel/plow and b) are without family or other resources to hire outside help may apply**. Because the program has resources, the program does not cover apartment buildings.

How Do I Apply?

Each year, an ad runs in the local media to announce the program’s enrollment period. In addition, letters are sent to last year’s participants notifying them of the date their application **and medical documentation** must be received. To be fair to all, an application with updated medical information is required each year; renewal is *not* automatic. *Completed* applications with physician documentation are processed as they are received. *(A **physician’s note** is required to confirm the person’s disability and the need for scheduled treatments/appointment).*

Who Provides Snow Removal Services?

The New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities contracts with a not-for-profit agency, PAACA. Crew members are screened and carry identification showing that they work for PAACA. If accepted, homeowners are required to sign an agreement holding the City “harmless” and allowing snow crews on their property.

When Do They Plow?

Clear Path crews plow when the storm has ended provided there are **at least 3 inches of snow** on the ground. If the storm is severe, crews make a return visit to salt or sand. The crew plows on weekends & holidays in **cases of medical necessity** if so indicated on your application **and physician’s paperwork**.

What Does The Crew Plow?

The crew will only clear the property areas identified on your application. This could include the walkway to the main entrance door, exterior wheelchair ramps, sidewalk area for which you as the homeowner are responsible. Depending on your medical needs, the crew will clear your driveway. The crew does not clear public streets or a neighbor’s sidewalk.

How Will I Know If My Application Has Been Approved?

You will be notified by letter if and when you have been added to the **HomeAID** service list. Staff will follow up by phone to make certain all your contact information is current and review the property areas to be cleared.

Does The Homeowner Have To Call For Service Each Time It Snows?

No. Once you have received a letter that you have been enrolled in the program and are on the “active list”, staff will follow up with a call when the service is available.

What Happens If The Program Is Full?

You will be notified by letter if the program is full and will then be placed on the Waiting List. If someone drops out of the program, staff will send you a letter and call to get updated information. In the meantime, the City is making every effort to locate a volunteer “Snow Angel” in your neighborhood to assist.

Is There Paperwork To Sign After Each Storm?

When your property has been cleared, crew staff will ask that you sign paperwork acknowledging that the job has been completed. ***Under no circumstances should staff ask to gain entry into your home.***

Is There A Fee?

No. Should anyone request payment, call the office **immediately** to report it.

Who Should I Contact for More Information?

Diane E. Figueira	ADA Coordinator
Location:	Recreation Office @ Buttonwood Park
Phone Number:	508.979.1638 - TTY Number: 508.979.1638
Fax Number:	508.979.1726
E-mail:	diane.figueira@newbedford-ma.gov