

Nearly 90% of Older Americans want to stay in their homes as long as possible. According to AARP studies.

Yet, many of the homes we live in today are not designed to accommodate this desire. Perhaps it's challenging to enter a home with a baby stroller, move large furniture, or get around a home safely as residents age or have disabilities.

The Lifelong Housing Certification was developed to help us think differently about home design. The certification criteria include simple and cost-effective modifications that homeowners and builders can do to make a home comfortable, safe and livable. A home can be built or updated to support your needs and lifestyle at any age by using simple Universal Design principles.

From visiting toddlers or grandfathers to fall prevention and security, a home certified for lifelong living is comfortable and convenient for everyone.

The Lifelong Housing Certificate can provide you reassurance that your home is free of common barriers to mobility found in most homes today- and often at little or no additional cost. **Why not make a home more functional and safe?**



For more information, including a copy of the Lifelong Housing Certification Standards Checklist and a list of certified inspectors, contact RVCOG at:

**541-664-6674**  
**[www.LifelongHousing.org](http://www.LifelongHousing.org)**

### Community Partners

Rogue Valley Council of Governments  
115 N First Street/P.O. Box 3275  
Central Point, OR 97502

AARP Oregon

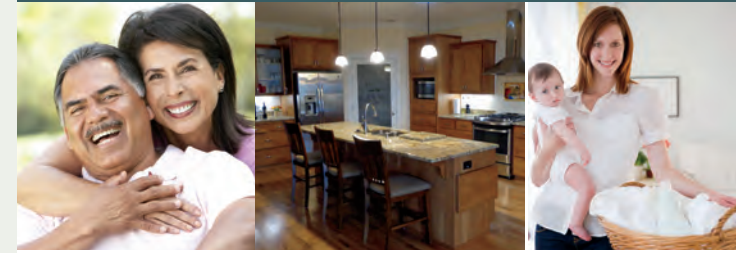
Age Friendly Innovators

Rogue Valley Association of REALTORS

Endorsed by the:  
Home Builders Assoc. of Jackson County, Inc.



## Where Design Meets Lifestyle



Simple Solutions for Comfortable,  
Safe and Convenient Living.



Developed in Partnership with AARP Oregon



## Who Can Benefit?

The Certification can benefit just about everyone.

- **Homeowners:** Chances are your present home won't accommodate your needs forever. Perhaps it's the stairs or the bathtub or maybe the lighting. The Lifelong Housing certification can help adapt your home to meet your needs as well as those who visit you.
- **Rental Owners:** By achieving the LLH certification your rental homes will not only be safer for those living in them but more marketable to potential renters.
- **Home Builder/Contractor Industry:** Offering LLH certified homes in your portfolio can offer an edge over your competition. Nearly 10,000 people are turning 65 every day and housing currently does not meet their lifestyle demands. Given that there is typically very little additional cost to implement these design elements, the LLH certification just makes good business sense.
- **Realtors:** Learning to recognize the potential benefits of LLH certified homes for your clients will ensure that you're acting in their best interest. There is now a new category on the Southern Oregon Multiple Listing Service to alert potential buyers of LLH certified homes.

## What Is the Lifelong Housing Certification

Currently, very few homes in our community have all or most of the main features of Universal Design: no-step entry; single-floor living; extra-wide doorways and halls; and accessible electrical controls, switches, and lever-style door and faucet handles.

The Lifelong Housing certification provides you a set of standards you can trust that ensures your home is a safer and more accessible home for you and your visitors.

Lifelong Housing certification is the voluntary process of evaluating a home against a checklist of Universal Design standards. Once the home has been determined to meet one of the three levels, a certificate is issued to the home-owner and, if the home is for sale, the certification is recorded on the Southern Oregon Multiple Listing Service (SOMLS). An important aspect of the program is education about the value of Lifelong Housing to homeowners and professionals in the field of housing.

## How Does it Work?

1. Obtain the Lifelong Housing checklist from RVCOG.
2. Review it with your contractor or builder and incorporate the desired features from the design phase into your newly-constructed or remodeled home.
3. Contact the LLH Inspector
4. Receive Lifelong Housing certificate
5. If the home is for sale, the LLH Program contacts SOMLS.

The fees for this process are minimal: approximately \$150 for the inspection and \$35 for issuing the certificate.



## Levels of Certification

**Level 1:** The home includes basic accessibility of architectural features on the ground floor and is "visitable" for all guests. It has a no-step entry and entertainment area, wider hallways and accessible bathroom. It has levered door handles and faucets.

**Level 2:** The ground floor of the home is fully accessible including all Level 1 features plus an accessible bedroom and kitchen, parking area and entrance. It also has additional features such as a raised toilet and appliances and grab bars in the bathroom.

**Level 3:** The home includes Levels 1 and 2 and has been customized for specific needs (such as a ceiling track). Specific features will be noted on the certificate.

A Lifelong certified home is simply a smarter way to live.

Start today and make your home fit your current and future needs and lifestyle.

**You'll be glad you did.**