CLEAR PATH PROGRAM

What Is The Clear Path Program?

Clear Path is a snow removal project that is part of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities “HomeAID” Program. It is available to 30 disabled New Bedford homeowners who need access to/from home in order to obtain medical treatment or receive caregivers.

Who Is Eligible?

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

How Do I Apply?

On Sept. 24, 2012, an ad appeared in the local paper and on the City’s website announcing that applications would be available from Oct. 1 – Nov. 2, 2012. In addition, letters were 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 in the order received until November 30, 2012. (A physician’s note is required to confirm the person’s disability and need for scheduled treatments/appointment).

Who Provides Snow Removal Services?

The New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities contracts with outside vendor(s) for snow removal services. Once accepted into the program, homeowners are required to sign an agreement holding the City “harmless” and allowing snow crews on their property.

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.

**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 only in **cases of medical necessity** if so indicated on your application and physician’s paperwork.

**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 Clear Path service list. In late fall, 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 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 you.

**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?**

The Department of Community Services
Phone Number: 508.961.3136
TTY Number: 508.979.1796
Fax Number: 508.991.6262