

Approximately a year ago, construction specifications were modified regarding grab bars; these modifications actually exceed Fair Housing, UFAS and ADA requirements, as well as building code requirements.

Specifically, the construction specifications now require if there is no side wall for a grab bar, the reinforced walls for a future grab bar will still be required. ADA only requires the grab bars for side walls.

Because of this, the cost reviewer noted that almost everyone is applying for a waiver because no one's plans ever contemplated this item. Waivers that take time, money, from both the corporation who has to review them and the attorneys who have to prepare them.

Following is the language from, for example, the 2018 SAIL Workforce RFA that is causing the issue:

Family: Provide reinforced walls for future installation of horizontal grab bars in place around each toilet/shower, or a Corporation- approved alternative approach for grab bar installation. The installation of the grab bars must meet or exceed the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Section 604.5.1 (Side Wall).

For the upcoming applications, I would respectfully recommend that the language of the application regarding grab bars should reflect the language of the years prior to the 2018 cycle.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this item. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. And stay safe and healthy!

Mara S. Mades
Partner
The Cornerstone Group
2100 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, FL 33020
(786) 709-2231 (office)
(305) 439-2148 (cell)