



Critical Home Repairs and Accessibility Improvements Enable Rural Senior to Remain in Her Home

Caroline had worried about the leak under her house and struggled to use her non-accessible bathroom for some time. At age 72, living in rural eastern Oregon's Malheur County, Caroline found that the maintenance needs of her home had begun to outpace her finances. She applied to a local weatherization program, but when she finally moved off the waitlist and received the home improvements, the workers found additional issues with the house that their program could not address. Caroline could not imagine how these problems would ever be resolved given her single, limited income.

Then in the summer of 2016, Caroline learned that she qualified for assistance from the nonprofit Community in Action, which had received a Housing Preservation Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to help low-income residents make critical repairs to their homes. Caroline was ultimately one of six residents in Malheur County to receive a grant through Community in Action to cover the costs of her home's maintenance needs.

With this financial assistance, Caroline was able to repair the leaking pipes under her house, install a new hot water heater, and make accessibility upgrades to her bathroom, including the installation of a new walk-in shower and a handicap toilet.

Caroline says she cannot believe these issues are finally resolved, and without any additional strain on her budget. She now feels comfortable in her own home and plans to continue living there for many years to come.



Caroline sitting in her newly repaired home in Malheur County, Oregon.

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| Obligation Amount: | \$44,597.93 grant |
| Date of Obligation: | August 2016 |
| Congressional District: | Representative Walden, District 2; Senators Wyden and Merkley |
| Demographics: | Malheur County in eastern Oregon; population 31,313 |
| Impact: | Six low-income households in rural eastern Oregon received grant funding to make critical repairs to their homes that they could not otherwise afford, including roof replacements, foundation repairs, accessibility improvements, plumbing repairs, and siding replacement. |
