



The R L Mace  
**UNIVERSAL  
DESIGN  
INSTITUTE**

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udinstitute.org

### **UDI Administers Home Improvement Fund**

The RL Mace Universal Design Institute (UDI or the Institute) in North Carolina has been named the administrator for the distribution of money

in a fund that has been designated to assist households with a family member who has a disability. The fund was created by Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) after settling housing discrimination complaints against multi-family housing developers. This special funding is only available for home accessibility improvements in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. From 2016 – 2018, UDI will distribute the money to a few select local non-profit organizations in each state that specialize in home accessibility modifications.

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The Institute is currently seeking qualified organizations to partner with in each state that meet the funding criteria and that can reasonably spend out \$15,000 - \$50,000 in home accessibility funds over the next 21 months. The households who are served with this fund also need to meet standard metrics for low income eligibility.

The RL Mace Universal Design Institute, founded in 1998, is a 501c3 corporation based in North Carolina and is dedicated to promoting the concept and practice of accessible and universal design. The Institute's work manifests the belief that all new environments and products, to the greatest extent possible, should and can be usable by everyone regardless of age, ability, or circumstance. The Institute advances the concept of universal design in all design disciplines, including housing, public-use buildings, outdoor and urban environments and related products.

## The Institute

- Performs accessible and universal design assistance and design development.
- Applies research to generate design solutions appropriate for the widest diversity of users.
- Evaluates existing products and buildings including compliance with ADA and Fair Housing provisions.
- Collaborates with builders and manufacturers on the development of new universal design solutions
- Develops and distributes educational publications and instructional materials -- tools most useful for professionals wishing to practice universal design and to individuals and families needing to learn of options and opportunities
- Conducts training (presentations, courses, modules) globally to increase knowledge of the application of universal design.

- For questions about the selection for local non-profits and regarding served households, please contact :

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