



HDB EASE Direct Application: Build the Senior Home Plan

Description

A senior does not always have to wait for a block-level upgrading exercise before asking HDB about age-friendly improvements at home. EASE direct application is for eligible HDB households that want senior-friendly improvements outside a precinct HIP exercise. The useful application starts with the applicant’s recorded flat role and the older resident’s needs, then maps each offered item to a specific fall, access or bathroom risk.

For an hdb owner, registered tenant or authorised occupier planning safer movement for an older household member, the immediate job is to decide whether to use EASE direct application and scope only improvements that solve observed home risks.

Your precinct is undergoing HIP: the quick answer

Situation	What changes
Your precinct is undergoing HIP	Use the HIP-linked EASE choice unless HDB directs otherwise
No HIP exercise is involved and eligibility is met	Use EASE direct application
A medical or mobility need is not addressed by listed items	Ask a qualified clinician or occupational therapist for case-specific advice
The desired work is outside EASE	Treat it as private renovation and check approvals, contractor and full cost

Direct EASE applications matter when a household needs ageing-in-place improvements without waiting for a block-level upgrading exercise. The starting question is functional: which movement, bathing or fall-risk problem is the household trying to reduce? A shopping list of fittings is less useful than a room-by-room description of difficulty.

Photographing the relevant threshold, bathroom or route can help the household explain the problem, but images do not replace HDB assessment or consent. Record dimensions and obstacles without making structural assumptions. A fitting that suits one flat layout may obstruct another resident or interfere with existing fixtures.

Confirm the applicant role

HDB identifies owners, registered tenants and authorised occupiers as possible users of the direct application service, subject to the live conditions. The controlling details used here are on [HDB Enhancement for Active Seniors](#).

Check My HDBPage records before collecting quotations or medical documents.

Start with observed movement

A generic “senior-friendly” purchase can miss the actual transfer, reach or slipping problem.

Walk the route from bed to toilet and entrance, noting handholds, thresholds, lighting and wet areas.

Match items to risks

Grab bars, slip-resistant treatment and ramp solutions do different jobs.

Write one risk beside each requested item and remove anything that has no clear use case.

Protect circulation space

An adaptation can create a new obstacle if it narrows a route or conflicts with doors and furniture.

Measure the route with the mobility aid actually used and mark door swings.

Separate subsidy from approval

Eligibility for EASE does not waive every building, electrical or estate requirement for other work. The related condition is explained in [HDB EASE direct application help](#).

Keep EASE items and private renovation on separate scopes and invoices.

Prepare the household for installation

Noise, dust and temporary loss of bathroom access can affect frail residents.

Set an installation-day care plan, medication plan and safe alternative route.

Test with the intended user

A correctly installed fitting can still be badly positioned for one person's reach or strength.

Test the route after installation, report defects promptly and retain the completion record.

How the case works in practice

A household should not request a grab bar only because it is subsidised. It should identify the exact transfer where support is needed, confirm the proposed height with the intended user, and make sure the fitting does not obstruct the door or walking aid.

Two records that make the housing choice clearer

- a bed-to-bathroom risk walk with item-by-item justification
- an installation-day and post-installation user test

The detail that changes the outcome

Start with a movement map through the home. Mark the bed-to-bathroom route, entrance threshold, shower area and any place where the senior reaches for furniture or another person. Note whether the difficulty involves balance, grip, a step, wet flooring or low visibility. This describes the problem without pretending to diagnose it, and helps the application focus on an improvement that changes daily use.

For a senior aged 60 to 64, the direct-application route can require a Functional Assessment Report. That is not merely another attachment: it connects the proposed item to a functional need. Check the live HDB instructions for who may complete it and what information is needed. Do not book work with a separate contractor on the assumption that HDB will later absorb or regularise it.

The completion check should be done with the senior using the actual route, at a safe pace and with assistance if needed. Look for reach, height, clearance, sharp edges, water pooling and whether a mobility aid still passes. Record any defect before adding mats, stools or improvised handles that could create a new hazard or make responsibility for the original installation unclear.

Keep the operating detail visible

A useful application pack has a short cover note with the senior's particulars, relationship to the applicant, flat address, functional difficulty, improvement requested and attached evidence. Keep medical details proportionate to what the form requires and send them only through the approved channel. If HDB asks for clarification, update the same checklist rather than creating parallel versions. Households with a registered tenant or authorised occupier should confirm who may apply and whose consent is needed. The person coordinating the application should also tell the senior what work is proposed in plain language and record questions that need an official answer before consent.

If the senior is not the flat owner, identify the owner or registered tenant early and check the live eligibility wording. A household should not postpone the conversation about consent until a contractor is ready to enter the flat.

Plan the installation day around the senior, caregiver and contractor. Identify who can answer access questions, where furniture will be moved, and how the resident will use the bathroom or entrance while work is under way. This turns the application into an operating plan instead of a form-only exercise.

After installation, test the improvement under normal conditions. A grab bar is only useful if it can be reached from the actual standing or seated position. Keep the completion record and report defects through the stated channel rather than making an unapproved alteration to the installed item.

What to have ready

- Confirm the applicant's HDB role
- Check the live EASE eligibility route
- Walk the senior's daily movement path
- Match each item to one documented risk
- Separate EASE from private renovation
- Plan care during installation
- Test and record the completed work

HDB decides live eligibility, offered items, subsidy and installation arrangements. Individual clinical needs require qualified advice.

Continue the task on LBRD

For an adjacent decision, [see how the EASE route differs for a conserved private home](#). You can also [run a separate home fire-alarm placement check](#).

Date Created

13/08/2026

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