Participation in the community starts at home. If people cannot maneuver safely in their homes or come and go as they please, their ability to participate in the community is reduced. For the majority of people with mobility impairments (whether chronic or newly acquired), it is not easy to leave home.

Rural U.S. rental households with individuals who use a wheeled mobility device (wheelchair or scooter). Includes 110,879 households in rural areas.

- **17%** do not have an entry-level bathroom.
- **29%** do not have an entry-level bedroom (in units with more than one floor).
- **9%** live in multi-family housing built since 1990, which is covered by the Fair Housing Act’s Design and Construction Accessibility Guidelines.
- **27%** are up at least one flight of stairs in apartments with no elevator.
- **32%** have no personal vehicle, compounding the obstacles to participation.
- **69%** have a stepped entry.

Data: American Housing Survey, 2011

**Why It Matters**

**Implications for Change**

**ADVOCATE**
Where there is enough accessible housing, consumers and advocates could use new strategies to get people with disabilities into these units.

**AMEND**
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides for moving tenants out of accessible apartments when someone with a disability needs the apartment. Policymakers could amend the Fair Housing Act with a similar provision.

**ACT**
Most rental units are not covered by the Fair Housing Act’s design and construction requirements. Policymakers must find alternative solutions to address housing usability and accessibility needs.