



A North Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations (NCACDC) led Evidence-based Senior Safety Assessment & Home Modification Initiative

CED NETWORK

Connect, Empower, Deliver

HOME S.A.F.E.

FACT SHEET

Falls are among the leading causes of fatal and non-fatal injuries for older Americans. Falls threaten seniors' safety and independence and generate enormous economic and personal costs. However, falling is not an inevitable result of aging. Through practical lifestyle adjustments, evidence-based falls prevention programs, and initiatives such as Home S.A.F.E., the number of falls among seniors can be dramatically reduced.

The Challenge

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- 1/3 of Americans aged 65+ falls each year.
- Every 13 seconds, an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall; every 20 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall.
- Falls are the leading cause of fatal injury in North Carolina among older adults.
- Falls result in more than 2.5 million injuries treated in emergency departments annually, including over 734,000 hospitalizations and 21,700 deaths.
- In 2013, the total cost of fall injuries was \$34 billion
- 908 North Carolina residents lost their lives because of a fall in 2011; 84 percent of these persons were over the age of 65.

Our Role

The **goal** is to prevent the risk of in-home falls by increasing awareness, knowledge and access to evidence-based home safety measures.

- Raise awareness and disseminate information regarding home safety practices and hidden dangers.
- Leverage USDA and other resources to assist in accessing home safety assessments and appropriate modifications.
- Expand and enhance the state's delivery Ecosystem for home modifications and safety assessments by adding experienced housing specialists.
- Manage and oversee the selection and work of contractor to ensure modifications are done to specifications.
- Provide financial resource information guidance from trusted and known community advocates

Phase I – Communities to be served: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Greene, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Western Cumberland, Wilson and select Native American communities.