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VA Awards Grants to Develop Technology to Help Veterans, Servicemembers Modify Their Specially Adapted Homes

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the award of \$783,421 in Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology (SAHAT) Grants to eligible individuals, researchers, and organizations to develop new technologies that would enhance Veterans and Servicemembers’ ability to live in specially adapted homes.

The SAHAT Grant Program was authorized by Congress to design assistive technologies to expand home modification options for Veterans who apply for VA’s Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) benefit. Grants of up to \$200,000 have been issued to four selected grantees.

“We’re excited and expect that the technology developed with these grants will augment Veteran and Servicemembers’ options for living independently in their own homes,” said Curt Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity. “New technology will serve Veterans who currently live in specially adapted houses and open doors for more Veterans looking to modify their homes to fit their needs.”

VA issued a Notice of Funding Availability in January for the SAHAT Grant program via the Federal Register and www.Grants.gov. In order to foster competition and best serve the needs of Veterans and Servicemembers, VA did not limit the type of entity or individual eligible to apply. There was no restriction on the number of grants that could have been awarded within the \$1 million funding limit.

VA administers the SAH benefit, which helps Veterans and Servicemembers with service-connected disabilities purchase or modify a home. Typical adaptations include ramps, wider halls and doors, and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. New technology from the SAHAT Grant Program will be added to the list of home modification options as they become available.

SAHAT Grants have been awarded to the following:

Grant Awardee	Technology	Funding Amount	Location
Auburn University	Touch-Voice-Eye Controlled Assistive Technology for Veterans and Servicemembers with Significant Disabilities	\$199,630	Auburn, Ala.
Philips Research of North America	Personalized Location-aware Assisted Technology for Improving Quality of Life and Independence in Individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment	\$199,557	Cambridge, Mass.
Simply Home, LLC.	Assistive Technology Link Platform Interfacing the Simply Home, LLC Firefly Platform and the Amazon Echo Device	\$200,000	Asheville, N.C.

St. Ambrose University	Virtual Demonstration and Training Site for Home Independence	\$184, 234	Davenport, Iowa
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