

Introduction to disabled facilities grants

A Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is available to pay for essential housing adaptations that are needed to help a disabled people in their home. Grants can be given for changes such as:

- Widening doors.
- Installing a walk-in shower.
- Installing ramps.
- Improving access to rooms e.g., by installing a stairlift.

The amount you will be awarded for the adaptations depends on the work that needs to be done, in England it is possible to get up to £30,000. The grant is means-tested for adults and depending on your income / savings you may need to pay towards the adaptations. Each local authority has its own means-testing policies. For disabled children under 18 parent / carers income is not taken into account. A grant will not affect any benefits you are in receipt of.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the grant you must:

- Have someone living in your property that is disabled.
- Own the property or be a tenant in the property you are requesting adaptations on.
- Intend to live in the property for the next 5 years (this is the duration of the grant).

Your local authority must also be satisfied that the adaptations are necessary to meet the disabled persons needs and reasonable and practical depending on the age and condition of your property.

Applying:

You can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant through your local council. A family member or landlord can apply on a disabled persons behalf. An occupational therapist will usually be sent out to your home to assess your circumstances and the changes needed. Your local authority has a statutory time limit of six months from the date of your formal application to make a decision. If you feel you have been unfairly refused a Disabled Facilities Grant you can challenge your local authority's decision.