

## Factsheet: Disabled Facilities Grants

## What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

It is money you might be able to get if you are a disabled person so that you can live as independently as possible. The grant is paid by your District or Borough Council. For Adults (over 18 years) you will be means tested. Children are not means tested.

## Can I get a grant?

To get a grant you must:

* Have difficulty managing daily living tasks
* Have a recommendation from social care occupational therapy that a major adaptation to your home is the best option to meet your needs
* Either own your own home, or rent from a private landlord

Certain situations may not be eligible for a grant, for example special adaptations for therapy activities or medical treatment. In all cases seek advice and information by phoning the County Council on 0300 500 80 80.

If you live in council owned or housing association accommodation you may still be able to get adaptations to your home, but they may be funded differently. Contact your local housing department for further details.

## What sort of work does the grant cover?

The following types of work qualify for a grant to make it easier for you to:

* Get in and out of the property
* Access the living room, bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen
* Use the bath or shower, toilet, and hand basin
* Prepare and cook food
* Improve or provide a suitable heating system
* Use your heating or lighting controls
* Enable you to care for another member of the household in need of care
* Make the building safe for you and other occupants.

Discretionary grants for other kinds of adaptations may also be available.

## How do I apply for a grant?

**Step 1** – contact the County Council on 0300 500 80 80. We will arrange for a conversation with one of our occupational therapy workers, to talk about what is important to you. They can give advice and support to enable you to live your best life at home. They may recommend structural changes to your home to makes things easier for you, and they may ask you to apply to the District or Borough Council for a Disabled Facilities Grant to fund this.

**Step 2** – Occupational therapy will contact your District or Borough council to recommend a plan and agree a suitable scheme to meet your needs. The role of the District or Borough council is to provide the grant for the work. They are involved at all stages in the administration of the grant and make sure that the work meets their building control standards. The District or Borough council will only give a grant where the work is reasonable, practicable, and is necessary and appropriate to meet your needs.

**Step 3** – if you are eligible, you will be asked to fill in a form about your income and savings. This financial assessment decides how much, if anything, you may have to contribute towards the cost of the adaptations. People on low incomes may get a grant to cover the full cost of the adaptations. There is no means test where the application is for a disabled child (under 18 years).

## How is the grant calculated?

The District Council decides the reasonable cost for the work – called the ‘eligible cost’. The amount of grant you will receive will be what is needed to meet the eligible cost of works over and above your contribution. For example: if the eligible cost of the work is £2,500 and your contribution is calculated at £1,000 you will receive a grant for £1,500.

You can do a quick check if you might be entitled to a DFG, or need to pay any contribution to the cost of works via [Means test calculator | Foundations](https://www.foundations.uk.com/guides/process-a-dfg/means-test-calculator/), you will still need to apply direct to your District and Borough Council, complete their form, and produce documents for evidence.

Currently, the maximum grant available under a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant is £30,000. If the grant is going to exceed this amount, the District or Borough Council has the discretion to pay the extra. This will depend on the policies and priorities of your council.

## What can I do if I have a contribution to pay?

Contact your local District Council Housing Grants department or discuss the outcome of your financial assessment with your occupational therapist. They might suggest applying for charitable funding to help towards the contribution costs.

## Can I get help in organising the work?

Yes, you can appoint an agent to deal with organising plans, builders, or tenders. The cost of this can be included in your grant application. Some Districts and Borough Councils offer this service.

People who could help or could be your agent include:

* Home improvement agencies (ask your occupational therapist for more information)
* Architects and architectural technicians.

## Your rights

This factsheet does not provide a full statement of the law – only the courts can do that. Nor does it cover every case. If you are in doubt about your legal rights or obligations, you should seek advice from a Citizens Advice Bureau, Disability Nottinghamshire (telephone: 01623 625891) or consult a solicitor.

## Contact information

Nottinghamshire County Council:

If you have any issues, please discuss them initially with your occupational therapist. If you are still not satisfied, you have the right to make a formal complaint.

Contact: Complaints and information team County Hall Loughborough Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 7QP telephone: 0300 500 80 80, Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm (Calls cost 3p a minute from a BT landline. Mobile costs may vary).

Enquiries: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact)

Website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Deaf / hard of hearing:

* Text relay service:  Dial 18001 0115 9774050 from your textphone or the Relay UK app.



* + Download the SignVideo app to communicate in British Sign Language via an interpreter. Visit [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us) for more information.

District or Borough Council:

Contact your local borough or district council and ask for the department that deals with Disabled Facilities Grants. Their contact details are in the phone book or [online](https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council). You can ask for a copy of their complaints leaflet if you want to make a formal complaint. National information on Disabled Facilities Grants is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants>

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.

*The Council is committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring all personal information is kept confidential and safe. For more details see our general and service specific privacy notices at:*

[*https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/privacy*](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/privacy)

Phone: 0300 500 80 80 - Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm (Calls cost 3p a minute from a BT landline. Mobile costs may vary).

Enquiries: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact)

Website: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Deaf / hard of hearing:

* Text relay service:  Dial 18001 0115 9774050 from your textphone or the Relay UK app.



* + Download the SignVideo app to communicate in British Sign Language via an interpreter. Visit [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contact-us) for more information.

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.

*The Council is committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring all personal information is kept confidential and safe. For more details see our general and service specific privacy notices at:*

[*https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/privacy*](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/privacy)