Nottinghamshire County Council

Disabled Facilities Grant

This information may be helpful if you are applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) for yourself, a disabled child, or a disabled adult you care for.

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

A Disabled Facilities Grant is money to adapt your home if you are a disabled person so that you can live safely and independently at home.

The grant is paid by your district or borough council.

For adults (over 18 years), eligibility for the grant is means tested (based on your income and savings). Children are not means tested.

Can I get a DFG?

To get a DFG, you must:

- have significant difficulty managing daily living tasks and/or accessing or using the facilities at your home because of a long-term disability
- have a recommendation from a social care occupational therapy worker that an adaptation to your home is the best option to meet your eligible needs
- either own your home, or rent from a private landlord
- have completed a financial assessment to check eligibility (known as means testing)

Eligible needs are identified during an occupational therapy worker assessment.

If you live in council-owned accommodation you may still be able to get adaptations to your home, but they may be funded differently. Your occupational therapy worker will advise.

Certain situations may not be eligible for DFG, for example, special adaptations for therapy activities or medical treatment.

If you are unsure, contact Nottinghamshire County Council on 0300 500 80 80 for advice.

What does the DFG 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

How do I apply for a grant?

Step 1: Contact Nottinghamshire County Council

Contact us on 0300 500 80 80.

Explain that you live with a disability which makes it very difficult to use or access your home.

We will arrange for a conversation with one of our occupational therapy workers to talk about what is important to you.

Step 2: Occupational therapy assessment

The occupational therapy worker will arrange to visit you to better assess your needs. They will give you advice and support to enable you to live your best life at home.

They may recommend making changes to your home to make things easier for you, and they may ask you to apply to your district or borough council for a DFG to fund this, if eligible needs are identified.

The occupational therapy worker will help you with the application process.

Step 3: District or borough council review

The occupational therapy worker will contact your district or borough council to make recommendations on suitable adaptations to meet your needs.

The district or borough council then takes responsibility to provide and manage the DFG, ensuring the work meets building standards.

They will only approve funding for work that is reasonable, practicable, and necessary for your eligible needs.

Step 4: Financial assessment

If the occupational therapy worker makes a recommendation for adaptations, your district or borough council will ask you 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. This is called a means test.

There is no means test where the application is for a disabled child (under 18 years).

How is the grant calculated?

The district or borough council decides the reasonable cost for the work. This is called the ‘eligible cost’.

The amount of grant you will receive will be what is needed to meet the ‘eligible cost’ of works after deducting 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 an informal check to see if you might be entitled to a DFG using the Foundations means test calculator.

Means test calculator (Foundations)
www.foundations.uk.com/guides/process-a-dfg/means-test-calculator/

Currently, the maximum grant available under a mandatory DFG is £30,000.

If the adaptation cost is going to exceed this, some district or borough councils have the discretion to pay the extra.

This will depend on the policies and priorities of your local council.

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

It is your responsibility to pay your contribution.

If you need help with this, speak to your occupational therapy worker. They may be able to suggest ways to help you fund your contribution.

Can I get help in organising the work?

Most district and borough councils will organise the work on your behalf. The cost of this is usually included in your DFG.

However, you can appoint an agent to help you with this if you prefer. An agent could be a home improvement agency, architect or surveyor.

Your rights

This factsheet does not provide a full statement of the law. It also does not cover every case.

If you are in doubt about your legal rights or obligations, you should seek advice from a Citizens Advice Bureau or consult a solicitor.

National information on Disabled Facilities Grants is available on GOV.UK.

Disabled Facilities Grants (GOV.UK)
www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants

Contact information

Nottinghamshire County Council

For help or more information about Disabled Facilities Grants, or to request this information in another format:

- Call us on 0300 500 8080
- Contact us online
  www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/contactus

Your district or borough council

Contact your local borough or district council and ask for the department that deals with DFG. Their contact details are in the phone book or online.

Find your local council
www.gov.uk/find-local-council

Privacy notice

Read our privacy statement to find out how we use your personal information.

View our privacy statement
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/privacy