

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

Disabled Facilities Grant is a mandatory grant for people with disabilities for essential adaptations to give better freedom of movement into and around their home and to access essential facilities within it. Where necessary, it can also provide the essential facilities themselves.

All enquiries will be referred to the Health Authority's Occupational Therapy Service who will need to do an assessment of your needs. For information, there is a waiting list for an assessment to be carried out.

Any recommendation made will then be sent to the Social Services Department who will decide if it is necessary and appropriate to carry out the adaptations.

Requests for minor adaptations valued under £1,000 may be dealt with by the Social Service. Requests for major adaptations, valued over £1,000 will be sent to the Council's Care & Repair Agency. They will assess your application and carry out a survey of your property, deal with your application and act as an adviser.

Who qualifies?

Anyone who has a disability or someone living with them who has a disability and requires adaptations to their property can apply. You must either be the owner of the dwelling, or be a private tenant and be able to provide the Local Authority with the necessary owners or tenants certificate. Confirmation from the owner that they are happy with the work being undertaken within their property is also required.

You will need to provide proof of your average weekly income, taking account of any savings above £6,000 and certain benefits. Some benefits relating specifically to a person's disability are ignored.

What work can be considered?

- ◆ To make it easier to get into and out of the dwelling by e.g. widening doors and installing ramps.
- ◆ Ensuring the safety of the disabled person and other occupants
- ◆ To make access easier to the living room
- ◆ By providing or improving access to the bedroom and kitchen, toilet, washbasin and bath (and / or shower) facilities
- ◆ To adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use

- ◆ To improve access and movement around the home to enable the disabled person to care for another person who lives in the property

How much is the Grant?

All grant applications will be subject to a test of the resources of the disabled person and their spouse or partner, which assess how much, if anything, they must contribute to the cost of the works. The amount of the grant is what is needed to meet the cost of the works over and above the applicant's contribution. However, this mandatory grant is limited to a maximum of £30,000.

How long does it take?

The Disabled Facilities Grant system is quite complex and requires input from other agencies besides the Local Authority. The Council will need to assess if the works are reasonable and practical and they will also prioritise all applications based on the Occupational Therapist's assessment.

It can, therefore, be a lengthy process, especially for major adaptation work, sometimes taking up to a year or more before a completed application is in place. As the resources of the Council are limited you may also have to wait for approval of the grant.

Please be aware, no works can be carried out until approval, in writing, has been given.

Where do I go for advice?

In the first instance, you should contact the local **North Worcestershire Care & Repair Agency** run by the Council, which can provide advice and practical help on all aspects of adaptations.

How do I apply?

If you want to know more, please ring the following telephone number according to where you live:-

Bromsgrove	01527 534103
Redditch	01527 534106
Wyre Forest	01562 732799

Please Note:

- The council will impose a limited charge on the adapted property of owner occupiers, if it is sold within 10 years, except in cases of hardship.
- Where the cost of the DFG exceeds £5,000 the limit of the maximum charge will be £10,000.

If you need help communicating in English, Please contact:
Ethnic Access Link Tel: 01905 21521



آپ انگریزی میں مدد چاہتے ہیں - نسلیاتی رسائی

01905 25121 سے رابطہ کریں ٹیلیفون: [Ethnic Access]



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www.nwcareandrepair.org.uk

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE
SCHEME**

**DISABLED
FACILITIES
GRANT**

