

Disabled Facilities Grants - Information Sheet

INTRODUCTION

DFG's are awarded by local District/Borough Council's under part 1 of the 'Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996'. A grant is awarded when the District/Borough Council considers that changes are necessary to meet the needs of a disabled person to allow them to continue to live at home, and when the work proposed is reasonable and practicable.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Any adaptations must be for the main or permanent residence.
- DFG's are not awarded 'retrospectively'. This means that you will not normally be awarded a grant for any work completed before an OT recommendation has been made and approval has been given by the District/Borough Council.
- If your home is adapted through a DFG and you choose to move within ten years you may be asked to repay some or the entire grant, unless the reasons for moving are unavoidable.
- You cannot apply for a second grant to replace the facilities, should the needs of the disabled person remain the same, unless there are exceptional circumstance

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant for?

The grant is available for essential adaptations which will make it possible for a disabled person to remain living at home or to ensure that they are cared for safely. Acceptable types of work include:

- Improving access into the property or to areas of the property
- Installation of suitable lighting, heating and ventilation
- Improving your ability to access and use facilities within the property for cooking, sleeping and bathing
- Improve the safety of the property

How long does the process take?

This depends of a number of factors such as the workload of the Occupational Therapists and Council Officer to the extent of the works. It is not uncommon for the process to take between one and six months.

How much Grant can I get?

Grants can be provided of up to £30,000 and depending on the applicants financial circumstances may require a financial contribution from the applicant. Gedling Borough Council is also able to award a discretionary payment of up to £10,000 as a 'Top-up to Mandatory DFG' or 'Dual Residency of Disabled Child' or 'Discretionary Grant for Clients With Less Than £6,000 Capital Savings'.

In certain circumstances, Where the amount of the Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant or a discretionary 'Relocation and Adaptation Assistance' exceeds £5,000 the Council will require repayment of the amount above £5,000 (up to a maximum of £10,000) if the recipient of the Grant sells/disposes of the property within 10 years of the date of certified completion of the works.

Where a discretionary 'Top-up to Mandatory DFG' or 'Dual Residency of Disabled Child' or 'Discretionary Grant for Clients With Less Than £6,000 Capital Savings' has been awarded the full amount of the discretionary grant award will be repayable where the property is sold/disposed within 10 years of the certified completion date. Where the property is sold/disposed after 10 years of the certified date of completion of the works the grant will no longer be repayable.

I am resident in a private rented property – Can I still apply for an adaptation through a DFG?

If you live in private rented accommodation you can still apply for a DFG for adaptations. However written consent from the landlord/lady must be provided before any works can be progressed.

If your landlord/lady does not give permission for any adaptation to be completed then the district/borough council will not be able to progress the children's OT's recommendations.

To apply for this scheme, please contact Nottinghamshire County Council's Occupational Therapy Department on 0300 500 8080