

## Guide to Disabled Facilities Grants Information Sheet

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) are provided by your district or borough council to help disabled people live more independently in their own homes, where equipment and minor adaptations are not sufficient. The DFG can be used to provide a range of adaptations to your home, including:

- a wheelchair ramp or external wheelchair lift to make getting in/ out of your home easier
- a stair lift or through-floor lift to help you access upstairs sleeping and washing facilities
- a level access or wet room shower to make washing easier
- a toilet that allows hands free cleaning
- wheelchair accessible kitchen facilities to support you to be independent with meal preparation

You can apply for a DFG whether you own your own home, rent a home privately, or you are a council or housing association tenant. This normally means that you will have an assessment by an occupational therapist. The occupational therapist may be from Adult Social Care or from the hospital or community health team. If you would prefer you can arrange, and pay for, a private occupational therapy assessment.

If you decide to have an assessment from a private occupational therapist, make sure they are fully qualified and are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). You can see if your occupational therapist is registered by checking the HCPC online register. You can check the register at [hcpc-uk.org.uk/check-the-register](https://hcpc-uk.org.uk/check-the-register). The Royal College of Occupational Therapists has a website - [rcotss-ip.org.uk/find](https://rcotss-ip.org.uk/find) where you can search for a private occupational therapist in your area.

A DFG is a means tested grant, which means that your income and savings, and those of your partner if you have one, are considered when you make an application for a grant. If the adaptation is for a child under 18 years of age, there is no means test and the child will be awarded a full grant. However, where the cost of the proposed work exceeds the level of grant allocated (or the £30,000 maximum) the applicant (usually the parent or carer) will usually be expected to fund any shortfall.

The district or borough council must be satisfied that the adaptations are “necessary and appropriate” to meet your needs. Both now and in the foreseeable future and they will also consider if the work recommended is “reasonable and practicable”, considering the age and condition of your property.

The maximum grant available is £30,000, but the amount of grant you will receive will depend on the cost of the works required and the outcome of your financial assessment.

If you are applying for a DFG, you can employ your own architect to draw up plans for you and arrange your own builders to complete the works if the district or borough council is satisfied with your arrangements and certain conditions are met. If you are unable to, or do not wish to arrange the work yourself, Adult Social Care can support you through the process, including arranging architects plans and commissioning the works required.

## General information

- any equipment that is installed through a DFG, e.g., a stair lift, will come with a warranty. You will be responsible for servicing and maintenance of the equipment after this time.
- you will need to inform your home insurance company of any equipment installed or adaptations made to your home, as it may affect your cover.
- to qualify for a DFG, it must be your intention to remain in your home for 5 years unless you are unable to do so due to health problems.
- if you own your own property and you receive a grant for £5,000 or more, the district or borough council will place a legal charge on your property. This will stay in place for 10 years and may mean that you will have to pay back some or all of the grant if you sell your house. This decision is made on a case-by-case basis, depending on your circumstances.
- a DFG cannot be paid retrospectively for work completed before a grant has been applied for and agreed
- timescales for major adaptations will vary depending on the complexity and scale of the project. This will include any design and planning issues.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact Call Derbyshire on: Telephone: 01629 533 190 or Email: [contactcentre@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@derbyshire.gov.uk).