

Everything you need to know about the Disabled Facilities Grant

What is a Disabled Facilities (DFG) Grant?

The DFG pays for essential home adaptations which can give disabled people more independence within their own homes by providing access to essential facilities within the home. The main adaptations facilitate access to the bathroom, bedroom, living room, kitchen as well as access in and out of the property.

If you want to make an adaptation to your home you may be eligible for financial support from your local council.

Is a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) means tested?

Yes, the DFG is means tested which takes into account your savings and income. The grant has been put in place to help those that financially need help to cover the cost of the adaptations for a disabled person. The value of the home will not be taken into account nor will the outgoings of the applicant.

Who can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

This is a mandatory grant that anyone who meets the criteria is eligible to apply for. You can apply for a grant if you or someone you live with is disabled. If you are a tenant in a rented property you can apply for a grant directly or your landlord can apply on your behalf. Permission will need to be sought from your Landlord that they are happy for the alterations to be made.

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Application

For more information on how to apply contact your local council. If you are unsure what district you come under visit this site and put your postcode in: www.gov.uk/apply-disabled-facilities-grant

How long does it take to get a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

There is no set timescale however, you will need to be aware that there may be a waiting list. All works covered by a mandatory DFG must be completed within 12 months of the grant being approved.

How much is a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) within the UK?

The DFG for England is currently up to £30,000
The DFG for Wales is currently up to £36,000
The DFG for N. Ireland is currently up to £25,000

The average DFG grant is around £6,500. Local councils do have the discretion to provide extra funds for adaptations which cost more than the DFG limit. This may be either a grant or a loan. Sometimes councils pay for adaptations which cost significantly more than the DFG £30,000 limit. This is particularly the case for heavily disabled children where the adaptation would enable the parents to care for the child and the alternative care costs in special institutes would be extremely high.

Can a Landlord apply for a Disabilities Facilities Grant (DFG)?

Yes, if your tenant has a disability it is possible for the Landlord to apply for a DFG on their behalf.

Is there an age limit to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

Anyone can apply for a DFG grant. It is means tested for adults not children. The most common adaptations are to bathrooms, stairlifts and step access. Just over half of the DFG's are for adaptations to homes of older people.



Do you have to pay back a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

A grant repayment charge may also be placed on the property to recoup some of the grant when the property is sold. This is a matter for each council to decide. This is to ensure that the candidate does not financially benefit from taxpayer's money due to an adaptation adding value to their property.

What is the criteria for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

You or someone within your household must have a disability. The Council needs to be happy that it is reasonable and practical to carry out the relevant works within the property. For more information: www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants/eligibility

Who decides what a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will pay for?

The housing authority manages the DFG provision. It is most commonly a specialist housing practitioner (sometimes an environmental health officer) who assesses whether a particular home adaptation is 'reasonable and practicable' and the housing authority usually asks social services (primarily occupational therapists) to assess whether an adaptation is 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the disabled person's needs, as set out in housing law. The means test for a DFG is applied by the housing authority based on nationally defined amounts and the calculation is the same across the country.

However, local authorities have a great deal of discretion with regard to their local systems of

- provision of grants for home adaptations in general. Some have simplified, fast track
- schemes offering non means tested grants to provide smaller adaptations and they apply
- DFG criteria only for larger works.

What are my options if I am not eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

If you fail to meet the criteria for a DFG grant here are some of the options:

- Disability-grants.org - A range of information on the help that might be available from charities and trusts can be accessed through their site with dedicated resources for disabled adults and the elderly.
- The SSAFA - A charity dedicated to supporting veterans of the armed forces and their families, they can provide financial support and advice for those living with physical impairment
- Turn2us.org.uk - A not for profit site where you can search for grants for disability adaptations in Herefordshire, by entering your postcode

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