

Disabled Facilities Grants

If you have a disability which stops you from safely moving around and/or using the basic fixtures and fittings in your home, housing adaptations may help you.

Adaptations are changes made to a property to help a person with disabilities live as independently as possible in their own home. Examples of adaptations include:

- installing a stair lift for someone who can not safely climb the stairs
- replacing a bath with a level access shower
- widening doorways and/or providing ramps to make it easier for a wheelchair user to move around their home.

Housing adaptations such as these are expensive. If you or someone you live with has a disability, you may be awarded a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to help pay for suitable adaptations to your home.

DFGs are paid by local councils to people with disabilities who need to make changes to their home in order to go on living there. We can only grant a DFG if:

- the adaptations are deemed to be 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the needs of the disabled person, and
- the disabled person meets certain criteria

DFGs for disabled adults are means tested. This means, depending on your income and/or savings, you may be asked to pay towards adaptations to your home.

DFG applications for children with disabilities are not means tested.

» Applying for a DFG

If you think that you may benefit from adaptations to your home, you should ask Adult Social Care for an Occupational Therapy assessment first of all. **Occupational Therapy assessments are free of charge.**

An Occupational Therapy assessment is a way for us to get a better understanding of your needs. An Occupational Therapist (OT) will visit you at home to talk about what type of support may help you. You may find that pieces of equipment and/or smaller adaptations, such as extra banister rails or half-steps, will help you to live more independently at home without the need for a major adaptation.

If you and your OT agree that your home needs adaptations costing more than £500, we (Adult Social Care) will apply for a DFG on your behalf. We will send your application to the Special Needs Housing team in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods department. If you are eligible for a DFG the Special Needs Housing team will work with you and your OT until any adaptations are completed.

The Disabled Facilities Grant is available to:

- people who own the home they are living in (this does not have to be the disabled person themselves)
- private tenants and their landlords
- tenants of housing associations and registered social landlords (such as Housing Hartlepool)

» Contact us

To get an Occupational Therapy assessment you will need to contact the Early Intervention Team first of all. You can contact the Early Intervention Team by letter, telephone, text, or email. If English is not your first language, we can provide a translation service.

» Our opening times

We open at 8:30am every weekday. We close at 5:00pm from Monday to Thursday. On Fridays we close at 4:30pm.



Telephone: 01429 523390



Text Service: 60006 (start your text with HBC)



E-mail: dutyteam@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk



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» About this factsheet

This factsheet gives an overview of the Disabled Facilities Grant. We issued this factsheet in April 2012 and updated it in April 2018. We will check the information is up to date in April 2020.



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