



Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations

For people who own and live in their own homes, housing association tenants and private rented tenants

December 2016

If you have a disability and need facilities or adaptations to your home, you may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

The Council's Adaptations Team can support you through the process

If you find it difficult to manage at home, specialist equipment or adaptations to your home may make life easier for you. The Council can help you to get specialist support and advice and there are grants available, depending on your circumstances and income.

If you have a permanent disability, the Council can help you to remain independent at home.

The grant will pay for adaptations recommended by an occupational therapist.

An occupational therapist will visit you and carry out an assessment. They will give you advice and discuss the best options to maximise your independence. This may include recommending specialist equipment or adaptations to your home.

What is the grant available for?

The Disabled Facilities Grant is for adaptations and changes to help you improve access and help you move around more easily in your home or to use basic facilities within your home including the kitchen and bathroom.

Major adaptations

These involve building work and could include installing:

- a shower over the bath
- a level access shower
- ramps
- stair lifts or step lifts
- low level kitchen units

They could also include widening doors for wheelchair access.

How do I pay for the adaptations?

You may be able to apply for the Disabled Facilities Grant to pay for adaptation(s). It does not matter whether you own your own home or rent it, but you must intend to live there for the next five years.

The grant is means-tested, so depending on how much money you have, you may have to contribute towards the cost. You will not have to pay if you receive a means-test benefit, for example guaranteed Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Income Support. We will ask for evidence of your income and savings.

The grant for people under 19 in receipt of child benefit is not means-tested, so occupational therapist recommended adaptations for children are free of charge.

If you rent from a private landlord

If you rent from a private landlord, you can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant and you can get help from the Council as described above. Your landlord will need to give permission for the adaptations to be carried out.

If you are a housing association tenant

You should talk to your housing association, who will liaise with the Council's occupational therapist.

How do I apply for specialist equipment or adaptations?

If you have a permanent disability and would like to find out more about specialist equipment or adaptations or arrange an assessment, you can

call our Social Services line on: 020 7361 3013, or email socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk

They will arrange for a member of the social services team to contact you to discuss what kind of help you need.

The Council's Adaptations Team can support you through the grant application process. We can:

- visit to advise on the options open to you and help with all the paperwork involved in any grant application
- produce specifications and where appropriate plans, and arrange estimates from specialist contractors
- provide advice with regard to paying for the cost of work including advice on grants
- monitor the work to make sure it is completed to a proper standard, and that all work complies with relevant regulations
- make sure that work is carried out in a considerate manner and that you are kept informed of its progress.

For more information:

Telephone: 020 7745 6703 / 020 7745 6704 or email:

HousingAdaptations@rbkc.gov.uk