

# Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

## Home adaptations and aids for residents with disabilities

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012, Central Bedfordshire Council adopted a new Renewal Policy. This sets out the types of grants, assistance and loans that are available (subject to budget).

Residents of Central Bedfordshire with disabilities may be able to obtain assistance to help modify their homes to make them safer, more useable and to enable independent living.

Funding could be available through the provision of a Disabled Facilities Grant, or if relatively minor in cost, through the provision of direct funding provided by the Council.

All enquiries for such funding must first go through to the Council's Occupational Therapy team on telephone number 0300 300 8050. All adaptations or aids that might be funded are subject to an assessment by an Occupational Therapist who will assess the needs of the person and the most appropriate type of adaptation or aid to help meet those needs.

Please note that funding is subject to a test of resources. The Occupational Therapist will be able to provide some advice or you can contact the Council's Housing Solutions Team on 0300 300 8302 who administer the grants and undertake the test of resources.

### What happens after my Occupational Therapist assessment?

If the Occupational Therapist determines from an assessment that the needs arising from your disability require certain adaptations or aids, then a referral would be made for a Disabled Facilities Grant or direct (for minor works) funding. The Occupational Therapist will be able to advise what source of funding is most appropriate and available. The maximum amount for a Disabled Facilities Grant is £30,000.

Adaptations recommended by an Occupational Therapist must be "necessary and appropriate" (to meet the needs of the disabled occupant) and works required must be "reasonable and practicable". These are the requirements under

the legislation governing Disabled Facilities Grants. For example, an occupant of a second or third floor flat with mobility difficulties, may benefit from a stair lift to gain access to that flat. However the provision of numerous stair lifts would not be reasonable or practicable and alternative options would have to be explored.

Another example would be where a person with mobility problems may feel that a ground floor extension incorporating a level access shower and toilet should be funded. However a stair lift to an existing bathroom on the first floor and the adaptation of that bathroom would be a more reasonable, practicable and cost effective solution to meeting the needs.

### What type of work is covered by a Disabled Facilities Grant?

Typical adaptations include:

- Access to the home (for example a wheelchair ramp).
- Access to rooms specifically including access to a toilet, bath or shower or wash basin.
- Provision of facilities for preparing and cooking food.
- Making the home safe for the disabled person and other people living in the house.
- Adaptations to the bathrooms.
- Ceiling hoists.
- Stair lifts.
- Through floor lifts.
- Access to the garden.

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## How is the Disabled Facilities Grant calculated?

Disabled Facilities Grants are subject to a test of resources prescribed by the Government.

This is determined by the income and capital of the disabled person and the disabled persons spouse or partner.

It takes into account the average weekly income and any savings or assets.

If the income/savings are less than the assessed basic needs or if you are already receiving certain means tested benefits then a full grant will be given.

If the income/savings are more than the assessed needs, a contribution towards the cost of the adaptation will need to be made.

Parents of children with disabilities up to and including 16 years of age (or under 19 if in full time education) are not subject to the financial test of resources.

## Other Relevant Information

Applications can be made on behalf of the disabled person, by, for example, parents/guardians of children with disabilities.

There are other conditions applicable to the provision of a Disabled Facilities Grant such as the requirement to sign a certificate stating that the person with the disability intends to occupy the home being adapted for at least five years.

This timescale may be reduced if the disabled facilities person's health or other relevant factors mean that they have to move sooner.

Whilst the Housing Solutions Team administer Disabled Facilities Grants following a recommendation from the Occupational Therapist, both teams work together to ensure that the relevant person's needs are understood by all involved.

The Housing Solutions Team will assist clients through the process from start to finish, including the complex application forms required for grant assistance.

## What are the repayment conditions?

If you are an owner occupier and the grant amounts to over £5,000, a charge for the amount over £5,000 and up to a maximum of £10,000 will be placed on your property at the Local Land Register for a period of ten years. Please be advised that you may be requested to repay this amount if the property is sold within that period.

## Who are the contractors that can carry out such works?

You can appoint your own suitable contractor or the Council can provide you with a list of contractors who have previously undertaken satisfactory grant or loan work. Depending on the cost of the eligible works a minimum of either two or three quotations are required. Quotations must be from suitably qualified and capable contractors. You must not start works before a loan is approved as started or completed works cannot be funded by the Council. Contractors quoting for heating works must be suitably registered with an appropriate professional body.

## More Advice

For more information, please contact the Housing Solutions Team on 0300 300 8302.

## Contact us...

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माहवगी लसी  
Za Informacja

برای اطلاع

by telephone: 0300 300 302

by email: [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

on the web: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,  
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ