



A guide to Disabled Facilities Grants

Introduction

A Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) provides funding for essential adaptations to give a disabled person better freedom of movement into and around their home. DFGs are available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Local authorities and NHS Boards in Scotland can provide discretionary funding for equipment and adaptations.

This factsheet provides a brief guide to how DFGs work and how to obtain them.

First steps

You can get advice on DFGs from the housing, social services or environmental health departments of your local authority, your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Shelter (www.shelter.org.uk). Many areas also have Home Improvement Agencies and handyperson organisations which provide a range of services to help disabled people with housing problems. You can find out more and search for services in your area on the Foundations website at www-foundations-uk-com.

If you wish to carry out adaptations to your home you should contact the housing or environmental health department at your local authority before making any changes (a DFG will not usually be awarded for work completed before it was approved by the council).

Eligibility

In order to apply you must intend to live in the property during the grant period (currently five years) and you may need to provide proof of residency. A landlord may apply on behalf of a disabled tenant.

Before making an application you should find out how much work is needed and what it will cost. The council will usually require two written estimates from different contractors.

The council will check that the proposed works are:

- Necessary and appropriate to meet the disabled person's needs
- Reasonable and practicable depending on the property

The maximum grant at time of writing (May 2015) is £30,000 in England, £36,000 in Wales and £25,000 in Northern Ireland. DFGs are means tested, which means the council will consider the income and capital of the 'relevant person'.



The 'relevant person' refers collectively to the disabled person and, if they have one, their spouse or partner.

The council calculates the average weekly income and savings of the relevant person and sets this against an assessment of basic needs. If the relevant person's resources are less than their assessed basic needs they will not usually need to contribute to the cost of the work. However, if the 'relevant person's' resources are in excess of their basic needs then money will be deducted from the total DFG.

Those in receipt of Universal Credit, Income Support, contributory Employment Support Allowance or Guaranteed Pension Credit will not usually have to make a contribution.

How to apply

You should contact your local authority's housing or environmental health department to request an application form which will set out the further documentation you need to supply.

The local authority must give you its decision in writing within six months of receipt of a valid application.

Payment of grant

If the application is approved then the local authority could pay the grant in full on completion of the works. Alternatively, it may choose to pay in instalments over the period that the work is undertaken. The grant can be paid directly to the contractor or to the applicant themselves.

You should ensure that you are satisfied with the works which have been carried out and inform the council if you are not.

Minor adaptations and equipment

In England, minor adaptations and equipment worth under £1,000 can usually be provided free-of-charge by the local authority, without means testing.

Low cost loans or other discretionary grants may also be available from your local authority for adaptations or equipment. Additionally, your council may be able to offer alternative assistance, such as releasing equity on your home to pay for adaptations.



Useful organisations

Find your local authority's contact details at:

England - www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council

Scotland - www.cosla.gov.uk/councils

Northern Ireland - www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland

Wales - www.wlga.gov.uk/authorities

For information about government services across the UK visit:

England - www.gov.uk. Find DFG specific information at www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants/overview & www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/9424/138592.pdf (copy and paste this address into your browser)

Scotland - www.scotland.gov.uk

Northern Ireland - www.nidirect.gov.uk/

Wales - www.wales.gov.uk

Other organisations you may find useful include:

Accessible Property Register - www.accessible-property.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau - www.citizensadvice.org.uk and www.adviceguide.org.uk

Foundations: The National Body for Home Improvement Agency and Handyperson Services – wwwFOUNDATIONS.uk.com

Shelter - www.shelter.org.uk

Acknowledgements

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Helpline: 0808 800 2244
Email: helpline@headway.org.uk
Website: www.headway.org.uk



About Headway

Headway - the brain injury association is a charity set up to give help and support to people affected by brain injury.

A network of local Headway Groups and Branches throughout the UK offers a wide range of services including rehabilitation programmes, carer support, social re-integration, community outreach and respite care.

The Headway helpline provides information, advises on sources of support, finds local rehabilitation services and offers a listening ear to those experiencing problems.

Other services provided by Headway include:

- Supporting and developing local Groups and Branches
- Promoting understanding of brain injury and its effects
- Producing a range of publications on aspects of brain injury
- Lobbying for better support and resources to be made available by statutory health and social care providers
- Campaigning for measures that will reduce the incidence of brain injury
- Accreditation of UK care providers through the Approved Provider scheme

Make a donation

I wish to help Headway - the brain injury association to improve life after brain injury by making a donation £

Your personal details

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Full name

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel. number Email

Your payment details

I enclose my cheque for £ made payable to Headway - the brain injury association

Please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Diners / Maestro card number:

Security code*:

*3 digits on reverse of card

Expiry date: / Start date: / Issue no. (Maestro only):

We (Headway - the brain injury association) hold the information you supply to us on our database. From time to time we may send you information regarding other services and products we provide. If you do not wish to receive such information, please tick this box.

Please tick this box if you do not want a receipt

Gift Aid

giftaid it Gift Aid will increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Please tick the Gift Aid box below if you want Headway to reclaim the tax you have paid on your donations since 6th April 2008 and any future donations you make. Please note that you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount we can reclaim on your donation in any tax year.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Donate by phone or online

- To make a donation by phone, call: **0115 924 0800**
- To make a donation online visit: **www.headway.org.uk**

Completed forms should be sent to: The Fundraising Team, Headway - the brain injury association, FREEPOST RSGU-CSKS-CSJS, Bradbury House, 190 Bagnall Road, Old Basford, Nottingham, NG6 8SF