

Disabled Facilities Grant – May 2011

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a local council grant to help towards the cost of adapting your home to enable you to continue to live there. A grant is paid when the council considers that adaptations are necessary to meet your needs, and is satisfied that the work is reasonable and practical.

Who is eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

You can claim if you or someone living in your property is disabled, and:

- you, or the person on whose behalf you are applying, are either the owner or tenant (including licensees) of the property
- you can certify that you, or the person on whose behalf you are applying, intend to occupy the property as your/their only or main residence throughout the grant period – currently five years

A landlord may apply on behalf of a disabled tenant.

A Disabled Facilities Grant can be used for essential adaptations to give you better freedom of movement into and around your home and/or to provide essential facilities within it.

If you are disabled, acceptable types of work include:

- widening doors and installing access ramps
- providing or improving access to rooms and facilities – for example, by installing a stair lift, or providing a downstairs bathroom
- improving or providing a heating system which is suitable to your needs
- adapting heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use
- improving access to, and movement around the home to enable you to care for another person who lives in the property, such as a child

An Occupational Therapist will look at your circumstances and can recommend the type of adaptation(s) needed.



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How much do you get?

The amount paid is usually based on a financial assessment (a 'means test') of your average weekly income in relation to your outgoings – or 'assessed needs'. However, there is no means testing for families of disabled children under 19.

Means testing will take into account savings above a certain limit, but certain benefits – including Disability Living Allowance and/or Pension Credit – are generally disregarded.

If you have a partner, your combined income will be assessed jointly. Capital is included in the means test. The first £6,000 of savings is disregarded.

A range of premiums and allowances is used for all essential outgoings, for example rent/mortgage and personal expenditure. Depending on the outcome of this assessment, the amount of financial assistance offered can vary from 0% to 100% of the cost of the works.

How the award is worked out

The award works as follows:

- If your income is *less* than your assessed needs, you will not normally need to contribute to the cost of the works
- If your income is *more* than your assessed needs, a proportion of your income will be used as a contribution towards the cost of the works
- If this assessed amount is less than the cost of the works, the difference between the two is paid as a Disabled Facilities Grant

The maximum amount of grant that a council is required to pay is £25,000 – less any assessed contribution from you. If the cost of the works is more, the council can use discretionary powers to increase the amount.

NB: A Disabled Facilities Grant will not affect any benefits you are currently receiving.

For more information, please contact:

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Clifton Road
Blackpool FY4 4US

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