

Community Care Services



Disabled Facilities Grant

A grant to help pay for essential adaptations to make it easier for you to manage at home

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

If you (or someone living in your home) have a substantial disability and are unable to use essential facilities in your home (like the bathroom or kitchen) you may be able to adapt your home to make it easier for you to get around and live more independently.

You may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to help pay for this work.

What can the grant be used for?

DFGs can be used to pay for adaptations such as:

- installing a stairlift so you can use a bedroom or bathroom
- building ramps and widening doors to help you get in/out of your home
- adapting your kitchen so you can prepare meals
- adapting your bathroom so you can use it

How much grant is available?

How much you get depends on the cost of the work you need and your financial situation.

If adaptations are a suitable option for you, we will arrange for someone to contact you to carry out a Means Test. This is an assessment of your income and savings to find out how much grant you are entitled to and if you need to contribute towards the cost of the work. The maximum grant available is £30,000.

Who can apply for a DFG?

You can apply for a grant for yourself or on behalf of a disabled person living in your home. You may be a home owner, a private tenant or a Council or housing association tenant.

How do I apply?

Before you can apply for a DFG you must have your needs assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT) from social care services.

If you don't already have an OT please contact us (*details overleaf*) - you can do this yourself or you can ask someone who knows your situation (a relative, friend or doctor) to contact us for you.

When you first contact Community Care we ask you to tell us about yourself and your situation - this helps us understand your needs. Depending on what you tell us:

- We may ask an OT to carry out an Occupational Therapy Assessment. They will explain all your options including equipment to help you manage at home or moving to a more suitable property. If they agree that adapting your home is a suitable option for you they will refer you for a Disabled Facilities Grant.
- If an OT assessment is not appropriate, but we think you may be eligible for other support funded by the Council, we will refer you for an assessment of needs.
- If you do not qualify for either of these we will give you information about other services that may help you.

Important things to consider

Reading Borough Council wants to ensure that as many people as possible get the adaptations they need to help them stay independent. However, because there is a limit to the money available, we need to ensure that grant money is used fairly and efficiently. To this end:

- we always look for the simplest, least disruptive and most cost effective adaptation to meet your needs
- your adaptations should be designed to fit within the existing structure of your home - we will only give a grant for an extension if there are no other options
- grants will not be given for work already started or completed

Contact us

Adults with disabilities

Response & Assessment Team

Tel: 0118 955 3621

Children with disabilities (Under 18 years)

Referral and Assessment Team

Tel: 0118 955 3641

Useful websites

Centre for Accessible Environments: www.cae.org.uk

DirectGov: www.direct.gov.uk

Communities and Local Government:

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/
disabledfacilitiesgrant](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/disabledfacilitiesgrant)