

# Disabled Facilities Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants  
Date Published: March 2019

## What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

If you or someone living in your property is disabled, you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant towards the cost of providing adaptations and facilities to enable the disabled person to continue to live there.

## Before applying for a grant

Before applying for a grant you will need to organise an assessment by an Occupational Therapist from Hampshire County Council. To arrange an assessment call Social Services Direct on 0300 555 1378.

## Getting a grant

Applications for Disabled Facilities Grants are dealt with by the Private Sector Housing Team in Housing Services at Hart District Council.

## Who can apply for a grant?

An applicant must either be the owner of the dwelling, a tenant or a landlord may apply on behalf of a disabled tenant.

## What are Disabled Facilities Grants available for?

The grant is intended to help fund essential adaptations to the disabled person's home, such as:

- Make access easier to dwellings such as installing wider doors or ramps
- Improve access within the dwelling such as installing a stairlift
- Improve access to the kitchen, toilet, washbasin and bathing facilities, this may include provision of a downstairs bathroom
- Improve or provide a heating system suitable to the needs of the disabled person
- Adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use
- Improve access and movement around the home to enable the disabled person to care for another person who lives in the property
- Ensure the safety of the disabled person and other occupants for example by providing a specially adapted room

## How will the grant be calculated?

Disabled Facilities Grants are financially assessed. The assessment will look at the income and capital of the disabled person and their spouse or partner. To find out if you would have to contribute to the cost of the work, you will be asked to complete a test of resources form.

The maximum grant is £30,000. Where the application is for a disabled child or young person under the age of 19 or in full time education there is no financial assessment. If the disabled person is on Income Support, Income-based Job Seekers Allowance or in receipt of the Guarantee Credit part of Pension Credit they will not have to make a contribution.

If a contribution is required this must be deducted from the amount of grant which would otherwise have been paid.

### How do I apply?

After the Occupational Therapist has made an assessment a referral will be sent to Hart District Council. An Officer may then visit to assess necessary works. The council will provide you with an application form and advise you of the documentation needed to support your application.

**Please note: no work should be started before a grant is approved, or the offer of a grant may be jeopardized.**

### Grant approval

The council must give you a decision in writing within 6 months of receipt of a completed valid application along with any additional information they may require. That is why you should

return the completed application form at the earliest opportunity.

### Grant payment

The grant will only be paid when the council is satisfied that the work has been completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval. The council may pay the grant in full on completion of the works or by installments as the works progress. You may have to repay some of the grant if you move within five years of its completion, if it is over £5,000 and the works have added value to the property.

### Discretionary Disabled Facilities Top Up Grant

In cases where the works exceed £30,000, the Council will consider giving additional discretionary funding. This may be available to:

- Disabled owner-occupiers
- Disabled tenants living in social or privately rented housing
- Disabled people living in their family home
- Parents or guardians of disabled children

The maximum amount for a top-up grant is £30,000. This will be assessed on a case by basis and the team will consider if the disabled persons needs can be met in another way, and if there is any other funding available.

## Contact details

### **Hart District Council**

Harlington Way,  
Fleet, Hampshire,  
GU51 4AE

### **Private Sector Housing**

01252 774420  
housing@hart.gov.uk  
www.hart.gov.uk

Facebook /HartDistrictCouncil

Twitter @HartCouncil

Instagram @HartCouncil

### **Occupational Therapist**

Dame Mary Fagan House  
Lutyens Close, Basingstoke  
RG24 8AG

0300 555 1378  
otdirect@hants.gov.uk  
www.hants.gov.uk