

## What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

What you need to know about applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant

# What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

If you or someone you are living with has a disability, you could get a grant from the council to make changes to your home. For example, to widen doors and install ramps or to improve access to rooms and facilities (for example, a stairlift or a shower instead of a bath).

## Who can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

Either you or the person you're applying for must:

- own the property or be a tenant
- intend to live in the property for at least five years (subject to health or other circumstances)

The grant is means tested; therefore, your household income and savings will be looked at to work out if you will qualify for the grant. Not everyone will qualify, and in some cases you may need to pay towards the cost of the work to the property.

## How do I apply?

To see whether we can offer this grant, you will need an assessment by an occupational therapist. If your occupational therapist agrees that major changes to your home are necessary and appropriate, they will refer you to the council's Grants and Adaptations Team. If they think there are other ways you can get the help you need, they will let you know.

## What happens next?

A Grants Officer will inspect the property to decide what works are eligible. They will let you know if the council can offer a grant and advise how to apply.

You will need to get quotes and in some cases you may need an architect to prepare plans. You may need to apply separately for planning permission or building regulations approval. If you are a tenant in rented accommodation, you will need to seek your landlord's permission to do the work.

**You should not start work to your property before the council has approved your grant application. Grants cannot be paid for works which have been completed before approval.**

## How much is the grant and how is it paid?

The amount of grant will depend on:

- the cost of the eligible work
- your household income and savings (unless the work is for a child under 19)
- the maximum grant amount set by government

In most cases, the grant is paid to the builder on completion of the works.

## How long will it take to get a Disabled Facilities Grant?

This will depend on how complicated the work is and whether other approvals are needed (for example, planning permission and building regulation approval). Sometimes, the council has a waiting list for an Occupational Therapy assessment and for a Grants Officer visit.

## Do I need to pay it back?

If you own your property, the grant, or some of it, may need to be repaid if the property is sold or transferred within 10 years of works being completed.


## What if I am not happy with the outcome?


If you do not agree with the outcome of your Occupational Therapy assessment, you can contact the Occupational Therapy Service. If you are unhappy with the decision made by the grants officer, you can request a review by a senior officer.

If, after having made a complaint to the council, you are still not happy with the outcome, you may register your complaint with the Local Government Ombudsman. Visit [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk) or call 0300 061 0614 for more information.


## How to contact us

Occupational Therapy Service, Adult Social Care

 **Call:** 01296 387024

 **Email:** [OTTriage@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:OTTriage@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Grants and Adaptations Team

 **Call:** 01296 585605

 **Email:** [grantsandadaptations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:grantsandadaptations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

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## **How to contact us**


### **Adult Care Services**

To get more information about adult social care services you can:


-  **Go online:** [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk) and click on 'Care for Adults'
-  **Call:** 01296 383204

### **Are you worried about somebody?**



If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:

-  **Call:** 0800 137915 (24 hours a day)

### **If you would like to give us feedback**

-  **Go online:** Please complete the online form at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

If you prefer you can:

-  **Call:** 01296 387844
-  **Email:** [complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)