

WHAT IS THE PROCESS ?

STEP 1

Contact your Occupational Therapist (OT) in order to arrange a home visit to assess your medical needs and provide the council with your requirements

STEP 2

The OT will then assess each case on its priority based upon the level of need. This ensures that more urgent cases are dealt with in a timely manner.

STEP 3

A grants officer will then contact you to make an appointment to complete a test of financial resources application form. During this time evidence of your income and savings are required. Following this visit you will receive a letter advising whether you have to make a contribution to the cost of the works. (An appeal can be made at this time)

STEP 4

A schedule of works will be drawn up and an estimate for the works will be obtained. Written confirmation of the required works and start date for the work to begin will be made within 6 months of all valid paperwork received. There is a limit of 12 months to complete the works, once the grant has been approved.

STEP 5

Once the building works have been completed, you will be asked to confirm that you are happy with the works so that the payment can be made.

GRANT REPAYMENT CONDITIONS

The Local authority now imposes a limited charge on the adapted property, if it is sold within ten years. The repayment condition is placed on adapted properties of owner occupiers, where the cost of the DFG exceeds £5,000, limited to a maximum charge of £10,000.

For information regarding funding from external agencies please see **Housing Assistance Scheme: Charities and Trust Leaflet.**

CONTACT DETAILS

Strategic Housing Department

Bromsgrove District Council, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1AA

Tel: **(01527) 881288** Fax: **(01527) 881313**

Email: **privatesectorhousing@bromsgrove.gov.uk**

Internet: **www.bromsgrove.gov.uk**



This leaflet can be provided in large print, braille, CD, audio tape and computer disc.



Bromsgrove
District Council

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Disabled Facilities Grants



Bromsgrove
District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

In partnership with



INTRODUCTION

If you or someone living in your property is disabled you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). The grant may be used towards the cost of providing adaptations and facilities to enable the person to continue living there. This leaflet briefly describes what DFG's are and how you can access them.

WHO CAN APPLY ?

- The applicant will be registered disabled or eligible to be registered.
- Parents of a disabled child aged 19 years or below.
- Owner, occupier, tenants or landlord or behalf of the tenant.

In the case of private tenants and tenants of Registered Social Landlords you will need the permission of your landlord to carry out the works.

WHAT IS A DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT FOR ?

DFG's are available for a range of works needed to help a disabled person to remain living more independently in a safe environment.

Essential adaptations are provided to enable a disabled person more freedom or movement in and around their home with access to the essential facilities.

Where necessary the following facilities may also be provided, this list is not exhaustive and therefore if in doubt please ask:

- Widening doors and installing ramps to provide easier access to the property.

- Improve or provide access to the bedroom, kitchen and/or personal washing facilities by installing a stair lift, downstairs bathroom or level access shower.
- Improve or provide a heating system in your home which is suitable for the needs of the disabled person.

The works provided must be distinguished between what is desirable and what is actually required and therefore grant supported.

DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO GIVE A GRANT ?

Before the Council can give a grant, the proposed works must be determined to be:

- Necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the disabled person. This will be identified during the Occupational Therapists meeting.
- Reasonable and practicable, this is dependant upon the age and condition of the property.

The council needs to be satisfied about each of these matters and the feasibility of the works if they are to give a DFG. The council can refuse the grant if they believe the scheme is not practicable.

A **Home Move Grant** of up to £2,500 may also be offered to the occupier in order to assist in moving to a more suitable dwelling for DFG adaptations. (Please see **Discretionary Grant Leaflet**)

HOW WILL THE GRANT BE CALCULATED ?

The maximum grant available per application is £30,000 this is required to be supported by recommendations from the Occupational Therapist.

The grant is financially means tested to ensure that those in most need get the most help. However parents applying on behalf of a disabled child under 19 for adaptations are not means tested. Financial means testing will be determined by the income and the capital of the disabled person and their spouse or partner.

If the assessment identifies that the income will not support the works or if a disabled person is on any of the following benefits a contribution will not normally need to be made:

- Council Tax Benefit.
- Housing Benefit.
- Working Tax Credits.

Where the costs of an adaptation scheme exceed the financial limits, the council has the discretion to award additional funds through other available grants. Each case will be examined on its merits by an internal panel, any additional funding required will be regarded as your contribution towards the scheme.

Please note: works must not start prior to grant approval being received.

If works are urgent you should contact Bromsgrove District Council prior to works starting and ensure the council are aware of the circumstances.

