Help to change your home

An Easy Read guide to the Disabled Facilities Grant

Information about getting help to make changes to your home.





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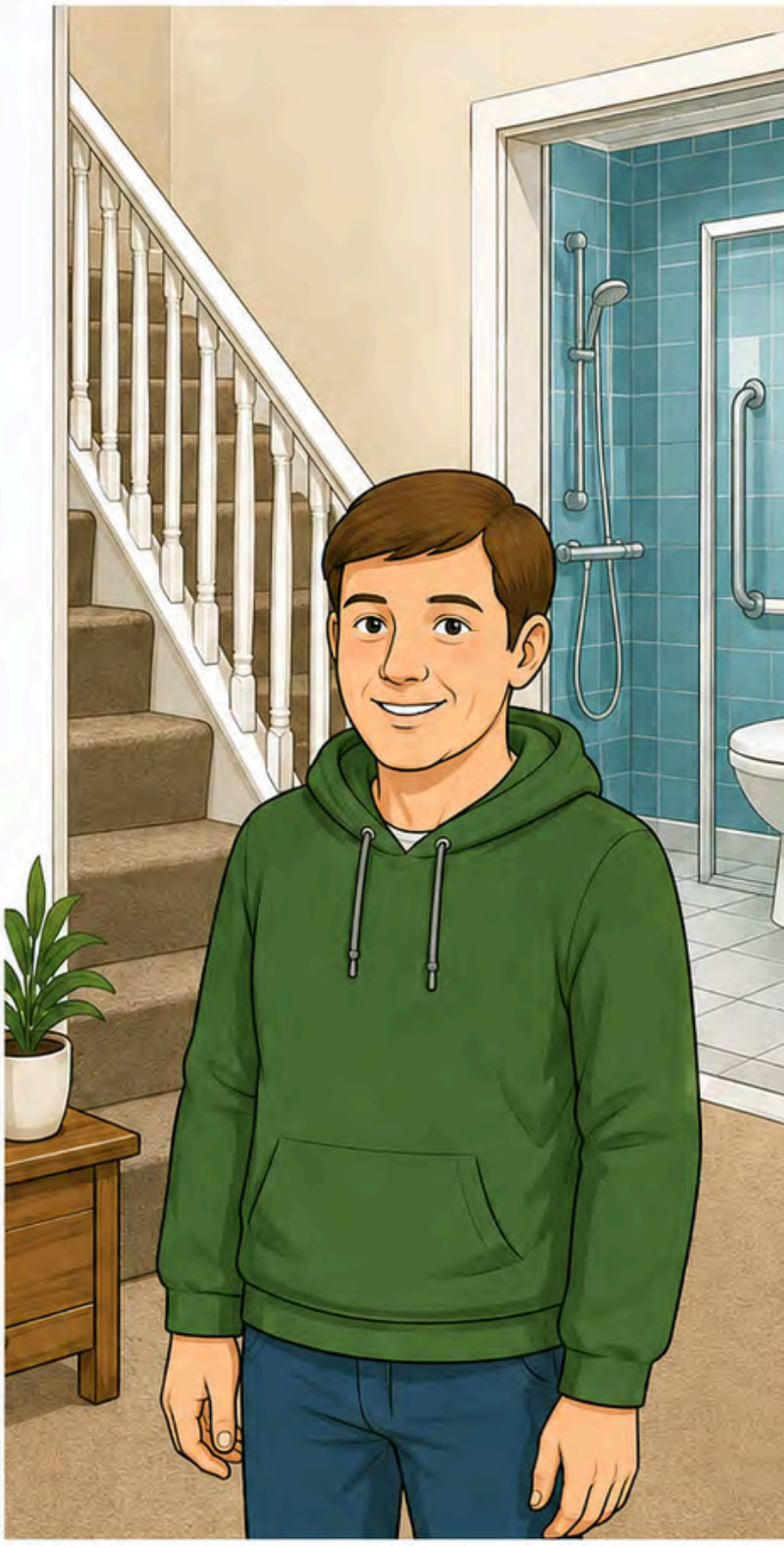
Foundations

the national body for Disabled Facilities Grants and home improvement agencies in England.

1

Help to change your home

An Easy Read guide to the Disabled Facilities Grant



You may be able to get help to change your home.

This guide tells you about that help.



This guide was produced by Foundations, the national body for Disabled Facilities Grants and home improvement agencies in England.

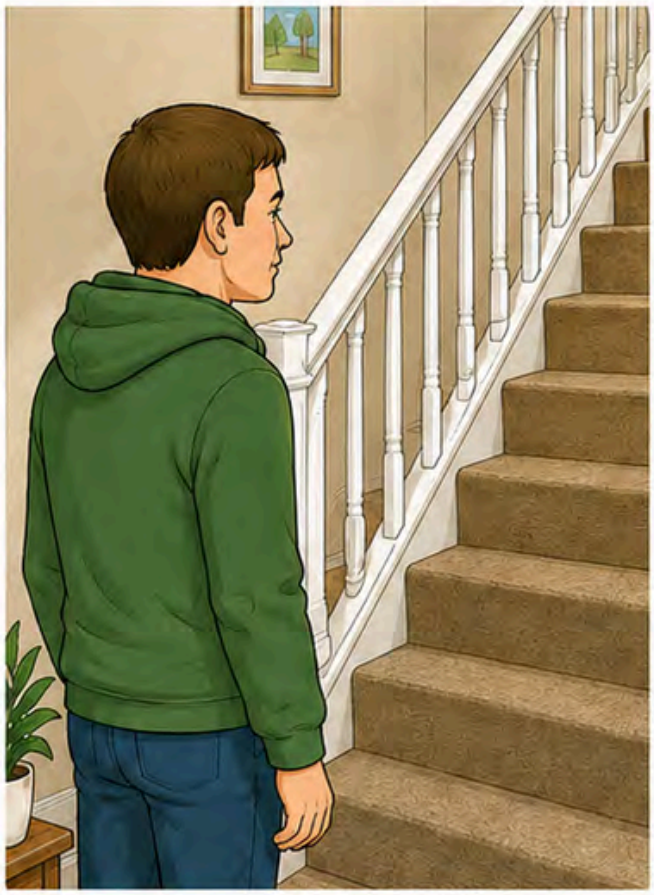
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Is something difficult at home?

Some things at home might be difficult for you.

You might find it hard to:

- get in or out of your home
- use the stairs
- use the toilet
- have a bath or shower
- move around your home



Sam finds it difficult to use the stairs.

Sam also finds it difficult to get in and out of the bath.



You may be able to get help with problems like these.

3

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

A Disabled Facilities Grant is money to help change a disabled person's home.

People often call it a DFG.

The money comes from the council.

The changes should help the disabled person do things more safely and easily at home.



These are examples. They are not all changes that Sam needs.

Who can get help?

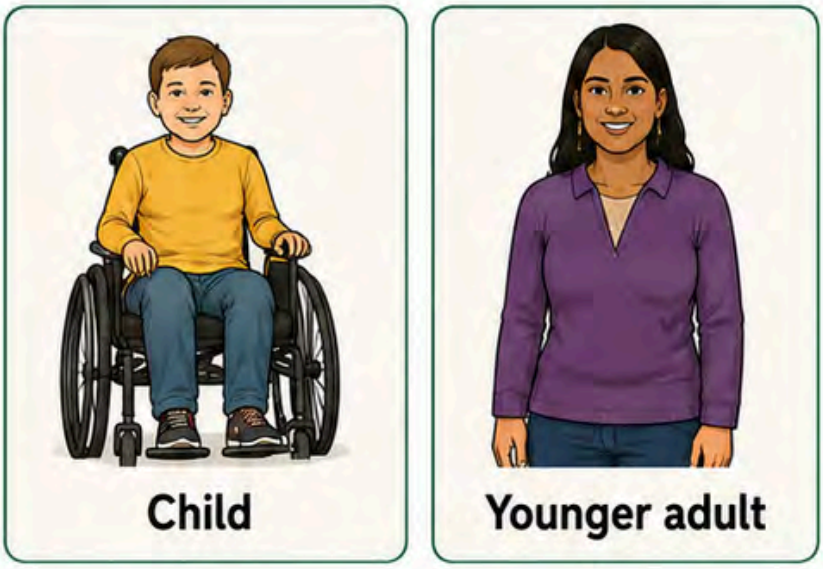
Disabled adults and disabled children can get help.

You can ask about a grant if you:

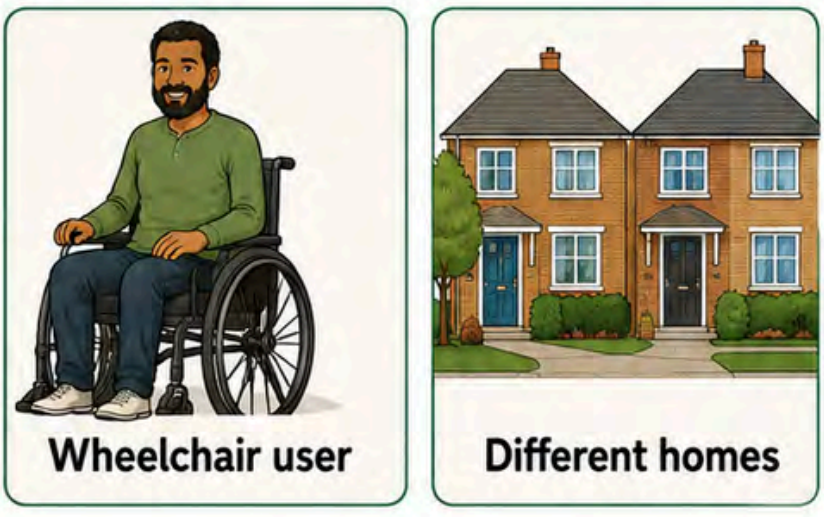
- own your home
- rent your home
- live with your family

Someone can apply if a disabled person lives in their home.

A landlord can also apply for a grant.







You can still ask for help, no matter who you are or where you live.

5

How do I ask for help?

Contact your council if you think changes to your home could help you.

You can contact the council yourself.

Someone you trust can help you.

The council will tell you what happens next.

Sam contacts the council to ask for help.



Find your council

Go to: AdaptMyHome.org.uk

6

What happens next?

There are several steps.

1. You ask for help.



2. Someone talks to you about what you need.



3. Someone may look at your home.



4. You talk about what changes could help.



5. You apply for the grant.



6. The council makes a decision.



7. The work is done.



It may be a little different where you live.
The council should tell you what will happen.

7

Someone will talk to you



Someone will talk to you about the things that are difficult at home.

They may work for the council.

They may work for another organisation that helps the council.

They will want to understand:

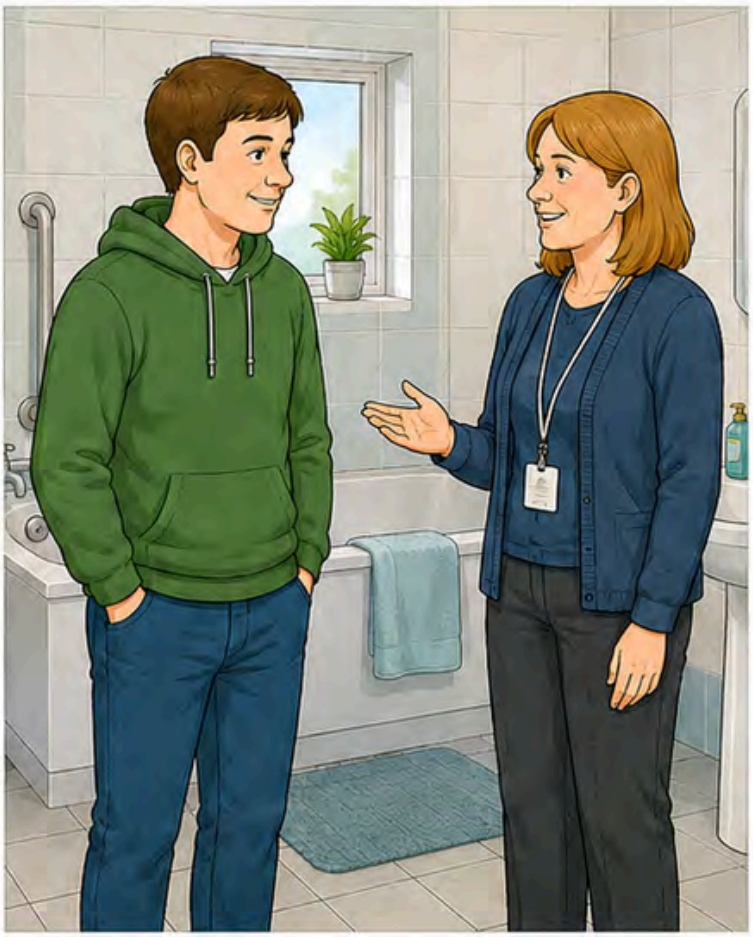
- what is difficult for you
- what you want to be able to do
- how you use your home
- what might help you

They may visit you at home.

You can have someone you trust with you.

8

Finding something that will help



There may be different ways to help you.

You should be involved in talking about the options.

Sam finds it difficult to get in and out of the bath.

Sam and the assessor talk about what could make washing easier.

A level-access shower might help.

The council will look at:

- what you need
- what could help you
- whether it will work in your home

The council will then decide what help it can provide.



9

Someone may look at your home

The change needs to work in your home.

Someone may visit your home to check this.

They may:

- measure rooms
- look at doors and stairs
- look at pipes and drains
- check where things can go

Some changes are not possible in every home.

There may be another way to help.





The assessor will measure and check your home to see what changes are possible.

10

If you rent your home

You can still ask for a Disabled Facilities Grant if you rent your home.

Your landlord may need to agree to changes to the home.

The council should tell you if landlord agreement is needed.

Ask the council if you need help talking to your landlord.



Talking to the council



Landlord agrees to the work

11

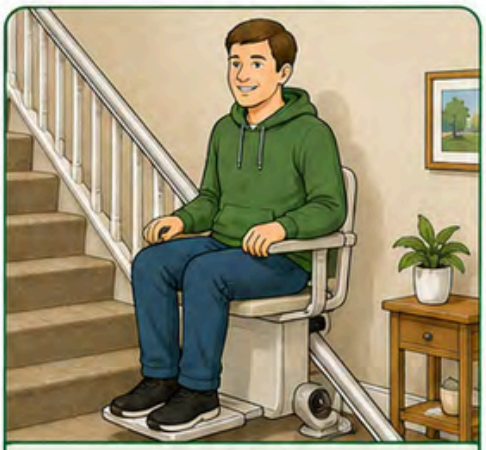
What can the grant pay for?

A Disabled Facilities Grant can pay for many different changes.

For example:



Level-access shower



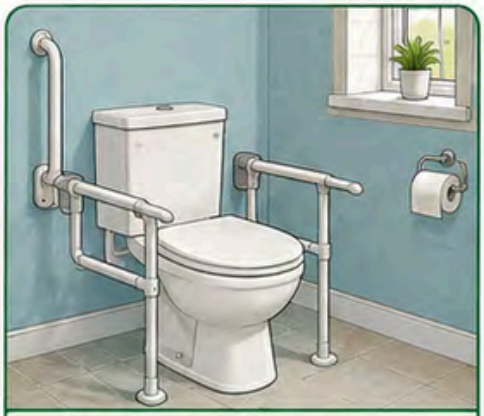
Stairlift



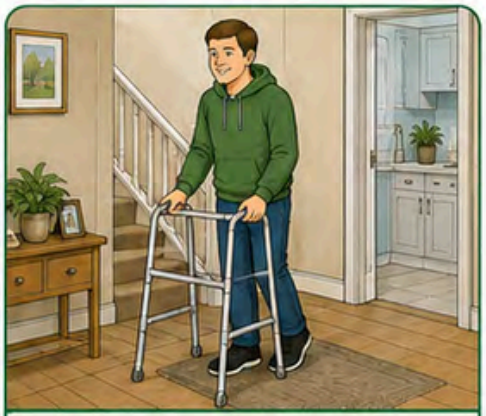
Ramp



Wider doors



Changes to help you use the toilet



Changes to help you get around your home

These are only examples. The changes will depend on what you need and what will work in your home.

Will I have to pay towards the work?

Some people do not have to pay anything towards the work.

Some people have to pay some money.

The council may ask about:

- your income
- some benefits you get
- your savings

The council uses this information to work out if you need to pay anything.

This is called a means test.

The council will tell you if you need to pay anything.





If the grant is for a disabled child under 18, their parents' income is not taken into account.

13

Will I have to pay the grant back?



A Disabled Facilities Grant is not a loan.

Most people will not have to pay the grant back.

There are some special rules if you own your home.

The council may be able to ask for some money back if:

- you receive a larger grant
- and you sell or transfer your home within 10 years

The council should explain this to you before you agree to the grant.

Ask the council if you are not sure.



This is about the rules for paying the grant back later. It is not about paying towards the cost now.

14

Applying for the grant

The council needs information before it can approve your grant.

They may need:

- information about you
- information about your home
- information about your income and savings
- details of the changes
- the cost of the work

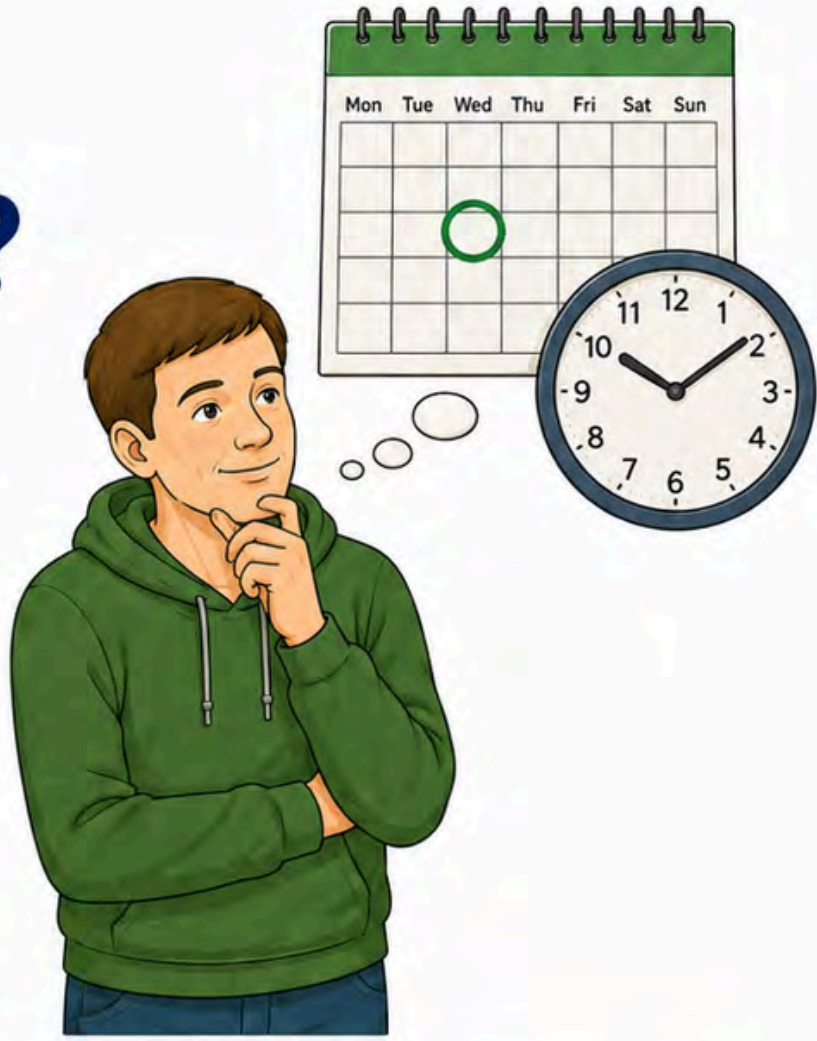
When the council has everything it needs, you have made a full application.

Someone may be able to help you with the application.

Ask if there is something you do not understand.



How long will it take?



Some changes are simple.

Other changes need more planning.

This means some people will wait longer than others.

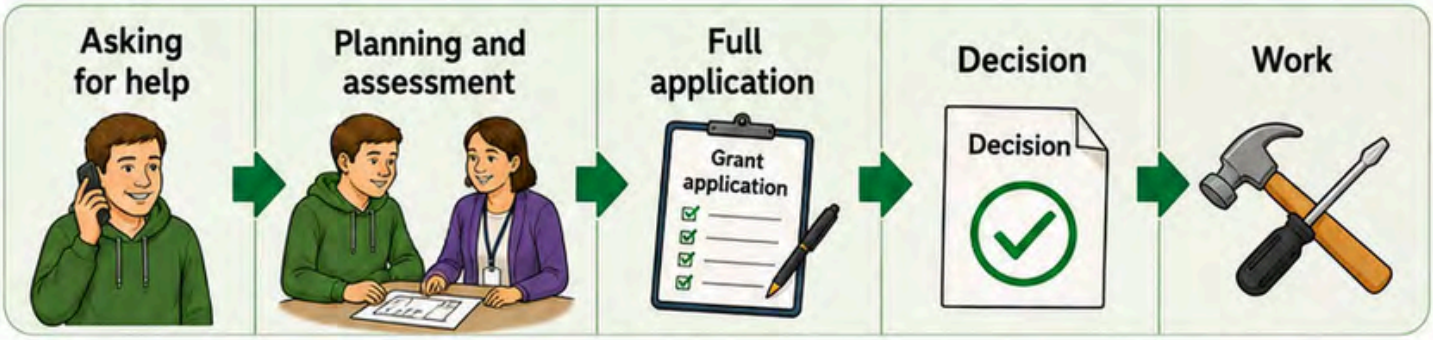
The council should tell you what is happening and what you are waiting for.



When the council has your full application, it must make a decision within **6 months.**



After the grant is approved, the work should normally be finished within **12 months.**



16

The council will make a decision

The council will tell you if your grant is approved.

The council should tell you:

- what work the grant will pay for
- how much the grant is
- if you need to pay anything

If the council says no, it should tell you why.

Sam's grant is approved. The work can now be arranged.



Do not start the work before the council tells you that you can.

Starting the work too soon could mean you do not get the grant.

Getting the work done

A contractor will usually come to your home to do the work.

Before the work starts, find out:

- who is doing the work
- when they are coming
- how long the work might take
- which parts of your home you cannot use

Building work can be noisy and dusty.

Tell someone if you are worried about how the work will affect you.

When the work is finished, someone may check it.

Make sure you know how to use your new adaptation.







If you need more help



Tell the council if:

- you do not understand something
- you disagree with a decision
- you are unhappy with the work
- you think something has gone wrong

Ask the council to explain what has happened.

Someone you trust can help you.

You can make a complaint if you are still unhappy.

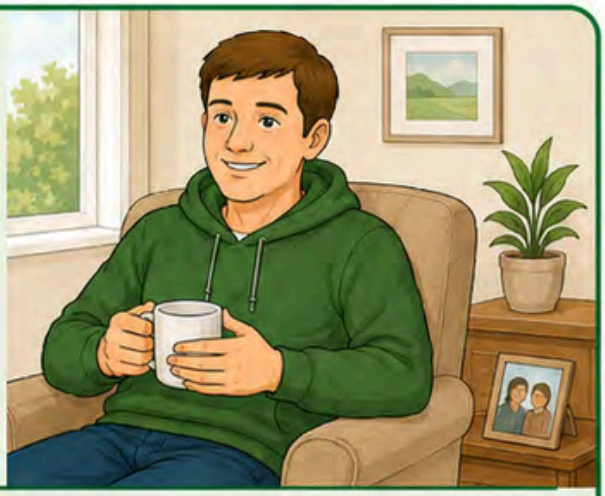


You do not have to work everything out on your own.

Your council can tell you about Disabled Facilities Grants in your area.

You can also get information at:

AdaptMyHome.org.uk





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