

How long will I have to wait for a decision?

Once a complete application has been made to the Council, we will give you a decision within six months, however, a decision is generally given much sooner.

How much grant will I get?

The amount of grant you get will be decided by a test of financial resources (means test) which is dependant on your income and capital. This will determine how much you can afford to pay towards the cost of the works. The grant will be reasonable cost of the approved works less your assessed contribution.

However, there is an upper limit to the amount of grant you can receive, this is determined by the Government. Therefore the applicant will have to pay for any works in excess of this upper limit in addition to any financial contribution due to the test of financial resources, however in certain circumstances Social Services may contribute towards the cost of any excess.

The information in this leaflet may alter subject to changes in the policies of the Government or Wychavon District Council. Grant approval is subject to availability of funds.

If you require any further information or you would like to apply for a grant you should contact a member of the Housing Team at the address below.

Housing Services Department
Wychavon District Council
Civic Centre
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Persnore
Worcs
WR10 IPT

Tel: 01386 565335

e-mail: grants@wychavon.gov.uk

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in larger print. Braille or on tape, please contact 01386 565335

Disabled Facilities Grant



Disabled Facilities Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants are available for a range of works needed to help people with disabilities live more independently in their homes. If you are registered disabled, the grant is mandatory for essential adaptations to give you better freedom of movement into and around your home and to essential facilities within it. Applications for grant assistance are dealt with by the Housing Department following receipt of a referral from Social Services. While grants for a range of works are mandatory you should not assume that you will automatically qualify for a grant, they are means tested and some works are only approved at the Local Authority's discretion.

What does the grant cover?

Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants are available to applicants for the purpose of providing a disabled person with the following.

- Certain facilities within the dwelling
- Access into and around the dwelling
- Access to essential facilities and amenities within the dwelling

Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants are available to make the dwelling suitable for a disabled person in terms of their accommodation, welfare and employment.

A grant could cover...

- widening doors, installing ramps or lowering thresholds to make it easier to get into and out of your home
- installation of a stairlift, handrails, etc to make access easier
- provision of adapted bathrooms and/or kitchens
- improvement in the heating system of your home
- alterations to heating or lighting controls to make easier to use
- works to enable a disabled person to care for a dependant who lives with them by improving access and movement around the home

There is also a range of other works which may be grant aided at the discretion of the local authority which could include:

- adaptations to an existing room to enable a housebound disabled person to work from home

Who can apply for a disabled facilities grant?

- a disabled person can apply if they are an owner-occupier or tenant
- anyone who is an owner-occupier or a tenant and who has a disabled person living in their home, can apply on their behalf

- a landlord can apply on behalf of a disabled tenant

In each of these cases, the disabled person must be registered or registerable as disabled.

How do I apply?

Your first contact should be with the Social Services Department of Worcestershire County Council or your GP. An assessment is undertaken by an Occupational Therapist and they will decide what works are necessary and appropriate to meet the disabled person's needs.

Social Services may then refer your case to Wychavon District Council and a Grants Officer will decide if the works are reasonable and practicable.

The Grants Officer will assist you in the completion of the relevant application forms and advise you of documentation needed to support your application.

NOTE:
you must not start any works before the Council have approved your application.

