

How to pay for adaptations to your home

If you're finding it harder to do things at home you may be entitled to a **Disabled**Facilities Grant. This grant can pay for adaptations to your home and equipment to enable you to live as independently and as comfortably as possible.

For example you may find it difficult to:

- climb the stairs
- get in and out of the bath
- prepare food

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a grant from <u>Care & Repair Newcastle</u> at Newcastle City Council. It is used to pay for essential adaptations to your home, including improving:

- access to your home: e.g. widening doors and installing ramps
- access inside your home: e.g. installing a stair lift or providing a downstairs bathroom or wet room
- heating and lighting controls
- or provide a specially adapted room where you can be comfortable and manage things without needing help

See <u>Equipment and Aids</u> for more details on different types of adaptations and support available.

Can I apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

You may qualify for a **Disabled Facilities Grant** if you or someone you live with is disabled and is

- the home owner or a tenant
- and you intend to live in your home during the grant period (which is currently 5 years)

How much may I receive?

How much you may receive depends on your finances and if you receive certain benefits. If you are on a low income, the grant may cover all or some of the costs of the work.

To find out if you need to contribute to the cost of support, the council will carry out a means test.

Contact the **Care & Repair Newcastle** team for more information.

Applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant

If you think you may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant, you must have your needs assessed by an occupational therapist from **Community Health & Social Care Direct**. You can contact them directly or you can be referred by your GP or carer.

They can also offer advice and support to help you.

Your Homes Newcastle tenants should first contact their Adaptations Team.

What if I'm not eligible for a grant?

If you're not eligible for a disabled facilities grant, there are other services that can help you with:

- paying for adaptations to your home privately
- buying the right equipment for you
- borrowing equipment
- hiring equipment

grants or funding to buy equipment

• support at homePlease visit our article <u>Home adaptations</u>, <u>equipment and aids</u> for other services and support that may be available to you.

Financial help from charities

<u>Citizens Advice Newcastle</u> has information on charities that can offer financial help to former employees from a particular trade who are struggling to pay for the items they need.

The Royal British Legion or SSAFA Forces Help or ABF The Soldiers' Charity may be able to help pay for equipment and adaptations if you are a veteran.

<u>The Chronicle Sunshine Fund</u> is a local North East charity that provides specialist and adapted equipment to children and young people aged 0-19 living with disabilities, additional needs, chronic and terminal illness. They fund equipment that cannot be provided by NHS or local authorities.

Check you're claiming benefits that you are entitled to

There are various disability-related benefits that may be available to you including:

- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Attendance Allowance
- Carer's Allowance

See **gov.uk** for more information.

A local independent advice service can help you find out about the benefits you may be entitled to including:

- Citizens Advice Newcastle give advice to anyone in Newcastle
- <u>Newcastle Welfare Rights Service</u> give advice to people in priority groups including those over 65. They have <u>self help material</u> on their website.
- <u>Search Newcastle</u> give benefits advice to older people in the West of Newcastle

- Read more on benefit advice services in Newcastle
- Money Advice Service
- Other benefit advice services available across Newcastle.

Other useful information

- Adapting Your Home Guide Age UK booklet
- Legal & General now offer help to find and fund care
- The design of homes for those with dementia or sight loss guidelines from The Dementia Centre at Stirling University
- Getting repairs and maintenance done

The Council has provided the Legal & General links for information purposes only. Please note that the Council neither recommends nor endorses any products or services accessed via these links. For full details, please see their website advertising statement

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Useful Organisations

Disability North

Email: reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

Website: www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 284 0480

Address: The Dene Centre, NE3 1PH

Care & Repair Newcastle

Email: careandrepairnewcastle@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.careandrepairnewcastle.co.uk

Telephone: 0191 211 5836

Address: Newcastle City Council, NE1 8QN

Adult Social Care at Newcastle City Council

Email: scd@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care

Telephone: 0191 278 8377

Address: CHSCD Newcastle City Council, NE4 9LU

Your Homes Newcastle (YHN)

Email: yhn@yhn.org.uk

Website: www.yhn.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 278 8600

Address: YHN House, NE7 7LX

Newcastle City Council

Website: www.newcastle.gov.uk

Telephone: 0191 278 7878

Address: Civic Centre, NE1 8QH

ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Email: supportercare@soldierscharity.org

Website: http://www.soldierscharity.org/

Telephone: 020 7901 8900

Address: Mountbarrow House, SW1W 9RB

Money Helper

Email: pensions.enquiries@moneyhelper.org.uk

Website: https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en

Telephone: 020 7901 8900

Address: Holborn Centre, EC1N 2TD

Chronicle Sunshine Fund

Telephone: 0191 201 6289

Address: NCJ Media, NE1 7JB

Related Articles

Home adaptations, equipment and aids

Telecare, telehealth and personal alarm systems

Needs Assessment with Adult Social Care

Financial Assessments with Adult Social Care

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

<u>Direct Payments from Adult Social Care</u>

Personal budgets for care and support

Getting repairs and decorating done

How to pay for adaptations to your home

Housing for older people

Managing your money

Carers assessments with Adult Social Care

Introduction to Adult Social Care

Looking after someone