Cheltenham Borough Council

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

What is a disabled facilities grant?
A disabled facilities grant helps towards the cost of providing adaptations and facilities which make a disabled person safer and more mobile within their home. These grants are given by the council under Part 1 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.

What type of work is covered?
Grant assistance is mandatory for essential adaptations to give the disabled person better freedom of movement into and around their home and access to essential facilities within it. Adaptations range from ramps, stairlifts, replacing of a bath with a shower to the construction of a ground floor bathroom extension.
Council tenants and housing association tenants requiring minor adaptations such as grab rails can request this work directly from their landlords.

How much grant is available?
The grant is "means tested" which means that your income and savings will be taken into account to decide whether or not a grant can be paid and what level of contribution (if any) you would need to find. Please note that adaptations for a disabled child are not subject to a means test calculation. The grant covers the cost of the adaptations that are assessed as needed up to maximum grant of £30,000.

Who can apply?
The grant applicant must be the owner or tenant of a house, flat or mobile home and will not necessarily be the disabled person for whom the works are required.

How to apply for assistance
Grant assistance can only be considered once the council has received a referral from an Occupational Therapist. For this reason the first step to making a grant application is to contact Gloucestershire Social services phone **01452 426868** or email socialcare.enq@gloucestershire.gov.uk and ask that the disabled person is assessed by an Occupational Therapist to see if they think adaptations would be necessary to meet the disabled person's needs. Further information can be found on their web pages www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/socialcare

Who do I contact for further information?
For further information on disabled facilities grants, please contact the Lifetime Homes Team at Cheltenham Borough Council phone **01242 775009** or email disabledfacilities@cheltenham.gov.uk or go to our web pages at www.cheltenham.gov.uk

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A step by step guide to making a disabled facilities grant application

- Contact Gloucestershire social services for an assessment by an Occupational Therapist

- An assessment is carried out by the Occupational Therapist who will forward a referral for the identified adaptations to Cheltenham Borough Council

- A Grant Officer from Cheltenham Borough Council will arrange a home visit to look at the proposed adaptations and complete a means test calculation

- An offer of grant assistance is made confirming applicant's contribution towards adaptations

- Plans and a specification of the proposed adaptations are prepared and sent out to a number of specialist building contractors so that estimates can be obtained

- The estimates and completed grant paperwork are submitted as a formal grant application

- The grant approval is issued

- The successful contractor can start work on site

- On completion of the work the council will inspect the adaptations and arrange payment for the work

Cheltenham Borough Council strongly recommends that the grant applicant appoints a surveyor to assist with the preparation of plans/specification, obtain estimates and supervise the work when it is on site. For further information on what is expected from a surveyor/agent please read our information sheet on protocol for agents

Please note that grants cannot be paid retrospectively, so work must not start on site until the grant has been approved.

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