



Disabled Facilities Grants and Adaptations



**Housing
Management**



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

For people who own and live in their own homes, housing association tenants and tenants renting privately

If you have a disability and need facilities installed or adaptations made to your home, you may be eligible for a **Disabled Facilities Grant**.

The Council's Aids and Adaptation Team can support you through the process.

If you find it difficult to manage at home, specialist equipment or adaptations to your home may make life easier for you.

The Council can help you to get specialist support and advice, and there are grants available to ease the cost, depending on your circumstances and income.

If you have a permanent disability, the Council can help you to remain independent at home

The grant will pay for adaptations recommended by an **occupational therapist**.

An occupational therapist will visit you and conduct an assessment. They will give you advice and discuss the best options to maximise your independence. This may include recommending specialist equipment or adaptations to your home

What is the grant available for?

The Disabled Facilities Grant is for adaptations and changes in your home that will improve your access and help you move around more easily, or help you to use basic facilities within your home such as the kitchen and bathroom.



Major adaptations

These involve building work and could include:

- Works to a bathroom to remove a bath and provide a level-access shower
- Works to make access easier, such as widening doors and installing ramps
- Installation of stairlifts or step-lifts
- Fitting low-level kitchen units
- Installing hoists

How do I pay for the adaptations?

You may be able to apply for the Disabled Facilities Grant to pay for adaptation(s). It does not matter whether you own your own home or rent it, but you must intend to live there for the next five years.

The grant is means-assessed, so depending on how much money you have, you may have to contribute towards the cost.

You will not have to pay if you receive a means-assessed benefit, for example guaranteed Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Universal Credit or a legacy benefit such as Income Support. We will ask for evidence of your income and savings at the start of the process.

The grant for people aged under 19 in receipt of child benefit is not means-assessed, so occupational therapist-recommended adaptations for children are free of charge.

If you rent from a private landlord

We will process the Disabled Facilities Grant application and oversee adaptation works but will need formal permissions from the landlord or owner of the property.



If you are a housing association tenant

You should talk to your housing association, who will consult with the Council's occupational therapist.

How do I apply for specialist equipment or adaptations?

If you have a permanent disability and would like to find out more about specialist equipment or adaptations, or arrange an assessment, you can call our Social Services line on: **020 7361 3013**, or email **socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk**

They will arrange for a member of the social services team to contact you to discuss what kind of help you need.

The Council's Adaptation Team can support you through the grant application process. We can:

- advise on the options open to you and help with all the paperwork involved in any grant application
- produce specifications and, where appropriate, plans, and arrange estimates from specialist contractors
- provide advice regarding paying for the cost of work, including advice on grants
- monitor the work to make sure it is completed to a proper standard, and that all work complies with relevant regulations
- make sure that work is carried out in a considerate manner and that you are kept informed of its progress.

For more information contact:

Telephone: **020 8964 6141**

Or email: **HousingAdaptations@rbkc.gov.uk**

