



Disabled Facilities *Grants*

Do you have a
disability?
- and does your
home need
adapting?

Suffolk Coastal ... *where quality of life counts*



Do you have a disability-and does your home need adapting?

- Do you have a disability or someone who lives with you has a disability?
- Does your home need adapting to help you cope with the disability?
- If yes – then financial help may be available.

Who can apply for a grant?

The owner of the dwelling, or a tenant if they can provide the necessary “Owner’s Certificate” or “Tenant’s Certificate”. This will not necessarily be the disabled person for whom the works are required. If you are a tenant you need your landlord’s permission.

Conditions relating to eligibility will be explained by your Grants Officer.

The disabled person must intend to occupy the dwelling as their only or main residence for the next five years.

What works could I have done?

A wide range of works to enable access into and around the dwelling and access to or provision of essential amenities or facilities. Examples of works might include **ramps, widening doors, showers in place of baths, and providing stairlifts**. Also works to make the dwelling or building safe for the disabled person and other occupants may be applicable.

All works must be supported by an Occupational Therapist. Social Care Services at Suffolk County Council are responsible for providing specialist equipment and this will not be grant aided.

How much will the grant be?

The maximum grant for mandatory works is £30,000. To ensure grants go to the most needy households the amount of grant is decided by a means test which looks at the income and capital of the disabled person and their partner. There is no means test in the case of applications for a disabled child.

How do I apply?

1. Contact Customer First and ask for an Occupational Therapist (OT) to carry out an Assessment of Need. Call 08456 023 023.
2. The OT will advise Suffolk Coastal’s Grants Officer of your needs.
3. The Grants Officer will undertake the means test and find out if you wish to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant.
4. Tell the Grants Officer if you require additional help with making an application. For owner occupiers and private tenants, Suffolk Coastal Helping Hand Agency can act as your agent and help with obtaining builders’ estimates, supervising works and obtaining building regulations and planning permission.
5. You will be able to discuss the adaptations needed and the proposed works with the OT, the Grants Officer (and your agent). Additional technical advice may be sought if necessary.
6. Following the consultation between the applicant, OT and Grants Officer the Council will send you an application package which will include a Schedule of Works. The Schedule of Works is normally produced by the Grants Officer although if you have an agent working for you he or she could produce this and forward it to the Grants Officer for agreement. The application pack will contain further advice on making an application.

YOU WILL NOT NORMALLY GET A GRANT IF YOU START WORK BEFORE THE COUNCIL APPROVES THE APPLICATION.

In exceptional circumstances, if the works are urgent, you may be given written approval by the Council to start works before grant approval.

What else do I need to know?

- You will receive a decision on your application within six months. Normally a decision will be made more quickly than this.
- If you do not get a grant because your means-tested contribution exceeds the cost of the eligible works it could still be worth applying. Ask the Occupational Therapist about joint-funding or the Grants Officer about the effect of a nil grant on any future applications.
- Some equipment is not eligible for grant aid but could be provided by Social Services eg hoists, grab rails, shower chairs.
- Obtaining Building Regulation Approval and Planning Permission (if required) is your responsibility.
- Additional grants may also be available to help with serious disrepair etc. The Grants Officer will be able to advise you on these.
- The first thing to do is contact an Occupational Therapist via Customer First by calling 08456 023 023.
- Grants to owner-occupiers that exceed £5,000 will have conditions that will require repayment on disposal of the property. The Grants Officer can advise you further in respect of this.

For more information about our services contact:

**Suffolk Coastal District Council, Private Sector Housing,
Melton Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1AU.**

Tel: 01394 444506 E-mail: ps.housing@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Web: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/grants/

Large print versions of this leaflet are available