

Disabled Facilities Grants for adapting your home

A guide for residents of West Sussex

Disabled facilities grants are provided by your district and borough councils for a range of home adaptations that help disabled people to live more independently in their own homes. The grants mainly help to make sure that disabled people can move more freely and safely around their home and use essential facilities.

Grants are provided for a range of home adaptations which can include:

- building ramps and widening doors;
- installing stairlifts;
- adapting kitchens for wheelchair users;
- converting bathrooms into shower rooms; and
- adapting toilet facilities.

Who can apply?

The following people can apply:

- Disabled people who own their own home.
- Disabled tenants, although council tenants may be dealt with separately.
- People who have a disabled adult or child living with them.

Do I qualify financially?

Grants are only available for people on a low income. Children, and people on means-tested benefits, automatically qualify. Other people may have to have a simple financial assessment. District and borough council officers can carry out an initial financial assessment (called a preliminary means test) to give you an idea of whether you would qualify.

How do I apply?

You should first discuss your situation with:

- your local district or borough council; or
- your local social care office at West Sussex County Council. Ask to speak to Adults' CarePoint, who will be able to give you advice.

An occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant from your local social care office will need to assess your needs. They will talk to you and your family or carer (if appropriate) about what adaptations might help you overcome your difficulties. If the occupational therapist agrees that an adaptation is the best solution for you, they will make recommendations to the district or borough council.

For information about occupational therapy support and services for children, visit the [Occupational therapy support for children page](#) of the West Sussex County Council website.

Points to note

- You must not start the work until you have received formal approval of the grant.
- The district or borough council will set out the details of the alterations the disabled facilities grant can pay for.
- If necessary, architects or surveyors can produce plans and specifications for the work involved.
- You may need building regulations approval and planning permission for some adaptations.
- Councils can sometimes pay grants in stages as the work progresses.
- Normally the work must be completed within 12 months of the date the council gives you formal approval of your grant.
- If you want to get more information, contact your local district or borough council office. The phone numbers are on the back page.

Other formats

If you need this information in another format, (for example, in large print or Easy Read, on audio CD or in a different language), please contact Adults' CarePoint.

Useful phone numbers

Adur and Worthing Councils

01273 263259.

Visit [the Adur & Worthing Councils website](#).

Arun District Council

01903 737755.

Visit [the Arun District Council website](#).

Chichester District Council

01243 785166.

Visit [the Chichester District Council website](#).

Crawley Borough Council

01293 438000.

Visit [the Crawley Borough Council website](#).

Horsham District Council

01403 215641.

Visit [the Horsham District Council website](#).

Mid Sussex District Council

01444 477292.

Visit [the Mid Sussex District Council website](#).

Social care

- Adults' CarePoint 01243 642121.
- Call using Relay UK 18001 01243 642121 (for deaf callers from a textphone or the NGT Lite app downloaded onto a computer, tablet or smartphone)
- Visit the 'Contact us' section of the [How to get adult social care support page](#) of the West Sussex County Council website. westsussex.gov.uk Our 'contact us' form is at 'How to get adult social care support'.