

Adaptations to your council home

What funding is available?

Funding is available to help council tenants continue to live in their home when disabilities cause difficulties in day to day activities.

What types of adaptation can be undertaken?

This funding may be provided for several purposes, for example:

- Installing a stair lift or through floor lift
- Help in bathing e.g. adapting a bathroom with a level access shower
- Installing ramps to front or rear doors
- Widening doors
- kitchens for easier use
- Improving or providing a better heating system.

Funding up to a maximum of £30,000 is available and in exceptional circumstances other funding may be made available.

The council has the right to refuse funding where it is not reasonable or practical to satisfactorily adapt the property. In these circumstances support will be given to tenants to move to more suitable accommodation.

Am I eligible for funding?

The Government sets the rules on funding. If you receive the following benefits you will be eligible for funding:

- Housing or Council Tax Benefit
- Tax Credits with an income below £15,050 per year

Other funding will be 'means tested' based on your income and savings and the following may apply:

- The applicant's weekly income, taking into account any savings above a certain limit. The 'means test' will, however, ignore certain state benefits, including those that specifically recognise a person's disability. This income is then set against an assessment of basic needs, which are recognised by a range of premiums and allowances.
- If the person's resources are less than this assessment, then they will not normally need to contribute to the cost of the works.
- If the person's resources are more than the assessment, then a proportion of their income will be used to calculate the size of their contribution.
- If the person's resources are significantly more than the assessment they may not be eligible for funding.

Any application to support children is exempt from 'means testing'.

How can I apply?

Enquiries should be made to Social Care Helpdesk for adults 0300 456 0111.

Enquiries for supporting children to live at home contact 01722 327551.

Help and advice will be given by a customer coordinator and, if needed, a referral will be made to an occupational therapist (OT) who will visit you and discuss the various options for supporting you to live at home.

In many cases advice and guidance will enable you overcome some of the barriers to living at home, or equipment may be supplied to support you. If a solution is still not found the occupational therapist will complete an assessment of your needs and an application will be progressed.

Designs will be drawn up with the support of your occupational therapist and reviewed with you to address your needs in the most appropriate manner.

When all parties have agreed to the designs and subject to funding being available, work will commence at an agreed date.

Further information and useful contacts

If you would like any further information about adaptations to your home, or would like to find out if you are eligible for an assessment by an occupational therapist, please contact Wiltshire Council Social Services helpdesk on 0300 456 0111.

If you would like any further information about adaptations for council properties, please contact Wiltshire Council Housing Management:

Telephone: 0300 456 0117 – option 3

Email: hsgmail@wiltshire.gov.uk

Write to us or visit us: Housing Management, Wiltshire Council
Council House, Bourne Hill, Salisbury SP1 3UZ

Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available on request in other languages including BSL and formats such as **large print** and audio. Please contact the council by telephone **0300 456 0100**, by textphone 01225 712500, or email customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

Nov 2016