

***NEW* Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant**

Ipswich Borough Council has introduced more creative and flexible ways to help its residents live independently within their home. A better and more simplified process to speed up adaptations now removes going through a means test for minor adaptations. For the first time the disabled facilities grant opens its door to residents with dementia. If you are unsure whether you could receive help, then please call our Home Improvement Agency (Orbit) and discuss on 0800 1217711 or email: suffolkhia@orbit.org.uk

Applicants can be considered for a Discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant when:

- Cost of works is £4,999.99 or less – the **most common adaptations** are changing bathrooms into wet rooms with a flush floor shower, installing stairlifts or ramping entrances. Where these works cost less than £4,999.99 (including professional fees) the applicant can be considered for a fast track application with no means test. If the costs of works are above £4,999.99 then a traditional Disabled Facilities Grant application will be required along with a means test.
- Cost of works is £4,999.99 or less - **providing adequate heating** where the medical need of the applicant is likely to be exacerbated by living in a cold home. Where these works cost less than £4,999.99 (including professional fees) the applicant can be considered for a fast track application with no means test. If the costs of works are above £4,999.99 then a traditional Disabled Facilities Grant application will be required along with a means test.
- Cost of works is £4,999.99 or less (including professional fees) - where the person is suffering from a **terminal illness** the applicant can be considered for a fast tracking adaptation with no means test to enable them to remain at home longer and more comfortably. Grant up to £4,999.99.
- Cost of works is £4,999.99 or less (including professional fees) - **Home from hospital** – where an applicant cannot be discharged because their home is unsuitable for them to return from hospital, the applicant can be considered for a fast tracking adaptation with no means test. If the costs of works are above £4,999.99 then a traditional Disabled Facilities Grant application will be required along with a means test.
- Cost of works is £4,999.99 or less (including professional fees) – **Dementia** – The scope of the policy has been extended to include adaptations to assist those with dementia to remain at home. The types of works that may be considered for those with dementia are: level access shower, easy to use door locks, colour contrast toilet seat, grab and handrails, colour contrasting light switch covers, colour contrasting toilet/bathroom doors etc. Applicants would be means tested and would need to complete the traditional Disabled Facilities Grant application process.

All above applicants are required to demonstrate ownership through a land registry check (done by the Council/ Agency) or, where the property is not registered, by endorsement by solicitor or mortgagee. Where they are tenants, landlord's consent would be required.

Any multiple applications within 12 months received will be considered on accumulative amount and therefore, will be required to be means tested and will not be considered for fast tracking application.

Before you apply for a grant you will need to contact Orbit on 0800 1217711 or email: suffolkhia@orbit.org.uk An Occupational Therapist will assess your needs and make a recommendation if they feel that adaptations to your home would enable you to be independent. Orbit will then continue the disabled facilities grant process with you if you are eligible.