

Southampton Housing Adaptations Team

Information for clients applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)



We are a team of Housing Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs). We will assess your needs around managing daily activities at home and recommend the simplest way your needs can be safely met.

Your OT/OTA is:

Email: housingadaptationsot@southampton.gov.uk

What happens after my Occupational Therapist has visited?

If we recommend a major adaptation, your home will be assessed by a Grant Officer to check the work is feasible.

- If the work is feasible, your Grant Officer will help you get quotes for the work and complete the DFG application.
- If it is not feasible, we may be able to explore alternatives. Occasionally, it isn't possible to adapt a home and you may need to consider moving.

If you rent your home, your Grant Officer will need to ask permission from your landlord or housing association for any work to be completed.

If you are planning to move home in the next few years, you should discuss this with your Grant Officer. There may be a cost levied against the sale of the property to cover the cost of any adaptations completed.

Frequently asked questions

How long will I have to wait for the feasibility check and for the work to begin?

Waiting times will depend on your assessed priority and can change due to demands on the service. Your Occupational Therapist can give you a current estimate on waiting times, but unfortunately not a definite timescale. If there is a significant change in your medical condition, please contact our team.

Will I qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

If you own your home, or rent it from a housing association or private landlord, you can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). Please complete and return the initial financial assessment form for a DFG as soon as possible. **Your case will not be allocated to a Grant Officer before this is received.** This is **not** the full assessment, but it will give an indication of whether you will qualify for a full grant, some grant funding, or no grant. If you are on a means-tested benefit you will definitely be eligible for a full grant. Even if you think you won't qualify, you should still apply. Sometimes other funding may be available based on your assessed needs.

Who is responsible for maintenance of my adaptation?

If a stair lift is installed, you can choose to waive your ownership of it, meaning it will be owned and maintained by Southampton City Council or your housing association. (Housing associations cover maintenance only after your five-year warranty, which is included in your grant, expires.) For all other adaptations, contractors usually provide a one-year warranty. After this, maintenance is your responsibility. Private landlords or housing associations may agree to take responsibility for the adaptation, but this is at their discretion.

Other information and services

Southampton City Council services: [southampton.gov.uk](https://www.southampton.gov.uk)

For an assessment or review of your care and support needs, contact Adult Social Care Connect: 023 8083 3003 or [southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care)

If you look after a relative or friend and your caring role has a major impact on your life, you can request a Carer's Assessment: 023 8058 2387 or [carersinsouthampton.co.uk/carers-assessments](https://www.carersinsouthampton.co.uk/carers-assessments)

City Telecare Services provides assistive technology to keep people independent and safe at home: 0333 207 9937 or [southampton.gov.uk/telecare](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/telecare)

For welfare support and money advice (including benefit entitlement), contact Citizens Advice: 03444 111 306 or [citizensadvicesouthampton.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvicesouthampton.org.uk)

Government information about Disabled Facilities Grants: [gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants)