



Easy read

Money you can get to pay for changes where you live

Self-directed support: an Easy Read guide to getting the help and support you need





Self-directed support: an Easy Read guide to getting the help and support you need

Self-directed support is all about being able to choose the help and support you want.



We are writing lots of fact sheets to help you. Each one tells you more about **self-directed support** and where you can go to find out more information.



This fact sheet tells you about **money you can get to pay for changes where you live**. Lots of people are disabled but can still have a good life in their own homes. They can do this because they have had help from the **local council** to make changes. The **local council** is in charge of things where you live.

Who can ask for money to make changes where they live



If you are disabled you can ask for things to be changed where you live. For example, you might want to have a bigger door so you can get in and out of where you live more easily.



Some people have made big changes to their houses like getting a new bathroom or bedroom. They did this by asking for money to make the changes. This money is called a **Disabled Facilities Grant**.

You can ask for this kind of **grant** if



- you are disabled or someone living in your house is disabled
- you will be living in a place for the next 5 years
- you are a **landlord** who needs to make changes for a disabled person living in your house. A **landlord** is someone who owns the house. You pay the landlord money called **rent** to live there





You can ask for a **grant** if you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.



If you live in Scotland you will have to ask the **social services** about this. **Social services** are in charge of looking after people who need help and support.

More about getting money to pay for changes where you live



You can ask for money to make changes where you live so you can

- move around more easily



- be safe

- build a shower room – this makes it easier to have a shower

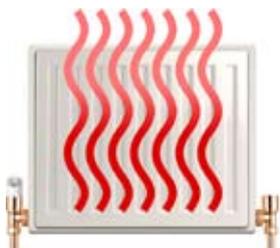


You can get money to do things like

- making doors bigger and putting **ramps** in – **ramps** are things that make it easier to get into and out of your house



- changing your house – for example you can ask for a bedroom to be made downstairs



- changing the way that your house is heated – for example some people might have very old heating that needs to be updated



- make it easier to get into and move around your house to help someone else that lives with you. For example, you might not be disabled but someone you live with is

How much money you can get



You might be able to get quite a lot of money to pay for the changes you need to make. The money you get will depend on how much money you already have. The **local council** will ask you about this. The **local council** is in charge of things where you live.

The local council will ask you



- how much money you get if you have a job or the person you live with has a job



- if you have any money saved – this is money that you have put away that you do not spend



The local council will tell you how much money you can get to pay for the changes you want to make. You might only get some of the money you need to make the changes or the local council might pay for everything.

How the money is paid to you

Each local council will pay the money to you in different ways. For example, your local council might



- give you all the money so you have to pay the people who do the changes or
- pay the people who do the changes themselves or
- pay the money in bits – for example, the money might be paid to you in bits every month or
- only pay when the changes are finished



If you want someone in your family to do the changes for you then the local council might only give you the money to pay for the **materials**. **Materials** means things like bricks and wood that you might need to do the building work.

How to get the money



You need to fill out a form to ask for the money. Ask your **local council** to send you the form.



- do not start any work until you know that the local council are going to give you some money
- you might have to wait for up to 6 months before the local council can let you know about the money

Getting the changes made to where you live



Every **local council** has their own way of sorting things out. Some **local councils** can help you sort out everything that you need to get the changes made. For example, they can find a builder and get all the work done for you.



Some local councils will have to ask you to talk to other groups that know a lot about houses and getting changes made to where you live. These groups can give you



- free advice about what the best thing is to do
- help and support if you want to make changes where you live



- help you to get small changes made where you live – this means things like getting a different chair or bed to make your life easier



- help to make big changes to the place where you live – this means things like doing building work



- help you sort out the money you need to pay to get the changes made
- help to find a builder to make the changes



- help to make sure that everything is going to plan

Other things that might help you



Your local council might be able to give you a **loan** – a **loan** is money from the bank. You can borrow the money you need but you have to pay back. You can use the loan to get the changes made to where you live and then pay your local council back.



If you are disabled you might not have to pay money called **VAT** on the work that is done to your house. **VAT** is money that is paid to the government. You have to pay **VAT** on things like eating out in a café or restaurant.



There are lots of groups that can give you advice on things to do with your house. Ask your local council about this.

How to find out more



You can find out more about getting money to make changes to where you live by going to

www.communities.gov.uk



Or you can

Telephone **0207 944 3442**



Email **disabled.facilitiesgrants@communities.gsi.gov.uk**

Or you can go the website



www.direct.gov.uk

You can find out more about staying in control by going to

www.in-control.org.uk

How to get help



To get more help you can contact the Learning Disability Helpline. You can do this by



Telephone **0808 808 1111**



Text **07717 989 029**



Email **help@mencap.org.uk**



If you want to read more fact sheets, you can go to **www.mencap.org.uk/incontrol**