

# WE ARE HELPING.



## Home Adaptations for Independent Living (HAIL) Service

Bringing independence to older people, disabled adults and disabled children

## Home adaptations

If you are an older or disabled Newham resident you may be eligible for support from Newham's Home Adaptations for Independent Living service.

Home adaptations mean making changes to your home so you can carry out daily activities easily and safely.

This can include to:

- widen doors or install ramps
- improve access to rooms and facilities - e.g. installing a stair lift or a downstairs bathroom
- adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use
- install a loud door bell
- make it easier to use the toilet, bath or shower.



## What do I need to know?

An occupational therapist will carry out an assessment in your home. If we find that your needs require a home adaptation, what happens next will depend on your tenancy.

### Council tenants

If the recommendation for an adaptation is approved, the work will be carried out by the council. You will not have to pay a contribution towards the cost.

### Home owners, private rented and registered social landlords

In Newham those who own their home or rent it privately, either through a private landlord or housing association may apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

## What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

This is a grant to adapt your home to enable you or family members who support you to live more safely and independently.

To apply for a grant, you will need to complete a financial assessment. As part of the assessment we will look at your income and savings to work out how much, if anything, you may need to contribute towards the cost of your adaptation.

Where adaptations are required for children under 18 years old a financial assessment is not required.

## Who can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

To apply for a grant you must:

- live in Newham
- be over the age of 18 (under 18s require a parent or guardian to apply)
- have significant or permanent difficulty using essential facilities within your home (such as in the kitchen or bathroom)
- be the owner-occupier or tenant of the home that you wish to adapt.



## What if I live in a property owned by a housing association?

The landlord of the housing association that manages your home may carry out the adaptation if you ask directly. We recommend that an occupational therapist assesses you as they will be able to recommend an adaptation that is suitable for you.

## Can I self-fund my home adaptation?

You can choose to self-fund and make your own arrangements for your home adaptation. If you wish to do this it is important to note that we will not reimburse you for the cost of the work, but we can offer expertise and independent advice.

## Can I upgrade my home adaptation?

If you would like to upgrade your adaptation, for example use more expensive tiles in a bathroom adaptation, you will need to pay the difference in price.

## Will getting the grant affect my benefits?

No, it won't affect any benefits you get, and you don't need to declare it as income.

## Where can I get further information to help me make a decision?

- Visit **[www.newham.gov.uk/homeadaptations](http://www.newham.gov.uk/homeadaptations)** to find out more, including a calculator to work out how much you may need to contribute to the cost.
- Contact Newham Council on **020 8430 2000**, and ask to speak to the Adult Social Care team, to request an assessment by an occupational therapist
- Visit **[www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants)**

for information about Disabled Facilities Grants.

**[www.newham.gov.uk](http://www.newham.gov.uk)**