



HomeKey+

Disabled Facilities Grant

We know needing support can be overwhelming. Please get in touch and we will guide you through the process and help you to make the changes you need to improve how you live in your home.

This leaflet is a guide to some of the financial help available for Cheshire West residents.

If you, or a member of your household, are disabled and adaptations to your home would allow you to move around more easily, to use essential facilities, or to stay independent in your own home then financial help is available from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

This leaflet sets out the type of financial help that is available and how HomeKey+ will support you to apply and to make the adaptations needed to make sure your home meets your needs.

A grant is available to provide adaptations costing more than £1,000 like: stair lifts, ramps, shower wet rooms, bedroom/bathroom extensions and kitchen alterations.



Who can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

The applicant doesn't have to be the disabled person but they must either be the homeowner or privately renting tenant of the property to be adapted. The adaptations must be for a disabled person who lives at the property as their only or main home. It must be the intention for the disabled person to remain living in the property during the grant period (currently 5 years).

Can I get help to complete my application?

Yes, we know that paperwork can seem daunting, we'll give confidential advice and expert guidance to help you make an application for funding major adaptations.



Where do I start to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant?

Before you make an application for a grant you will need an Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment as this is needed to identify the adaptations required and to make sure the grant criteria is met. If you have not already been contacted by an OT or OT Assessor, **your first step is to request an OT assessment** from the Cheshire West Community Access Team, please call: **0300 123 7034** or email: **accesswest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk**

Following the OT assessment, we'll arrange for a HomeKey+ Technical Officer to visit you at home to check the works that the OT has recommended are reasonable and practical for your home.

We'll then oversee the building work on your behalf; from checking what has been recommended is suitable for your home, right until signing off work when it's complete.

There are a number of conditions that apply to a Disabled Facilities Grant:

- All works must be completed within 12 months of written approval from the Council
- For any grant above £5,000 repayment of the grant may be required, if for example the applicant moves within 10 years of the completion date, up to a maximum repayment of £10,000.

How much grant can I apply for?

A means-tested grant of up to £30,000 may be available from the Council to cover the cost of the adaptations and associated fees.

Trained HomeKey+ caseworkers will support you to complete a form about your household financial situation, then a Test of Resources is carried out to check eligibility and to see what contribution (if any) you would need to make towards these costs.

The test of resources is set out by the Government and calculates average weekly income, taking account of any savings above a Government set threshold of £6,000. Your total income is then set against an assessment of your basic outgoings, which are recognised by a range of allowances. The calculated figure is then used to determine whether you need to make a contribution to the grant.

You will not normally have to make a contribution if you are on a low income, in receipt of:

- Income Support
- income-based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Housing Benefit
- Guaranteed element of Pension Credit;

Although this may be affected if your spouse/partner has an income and is also being assessed. A Test of Resources is not required where an application is made for a child or young person under the age of 19 for whom Child Benefit is payable.

HomeKey+



If your home needs other repairs or maintenance you could make use of our handyman service. Self-funded work is also an option for homeowners where grants or loans are not applicable.



Visit our website [HomeKeyPlus.co.uk](https://www.homekeyplus.co.uk) where you'll find more information about the funding available and the reliable support we offer or if you would like to ask any questions please contact us: call **0300 124 52 89** or by email contactus@homekeyplus.co.uk