



NPS North West Ltd (in partnership with South Lakeland District Council)

Disability Access Grant Information

The Disability Access Grant is intended to provide financial incentive and assistance to non profit making, voluntary and charitable organisations occupying buildings, who wish to modify their premises in order to make them more accessible to disabled people. The grant is discretionary and up to a maximum of £1,500.00. The maximum grant is reserved for applicant organisations undertaking two or more items of eligible works to improve access for disabled people.

A grant will never be given retrospectively on works already started or completed.

All proposed works should be accessible to disabled people.¹

Accessible with respect to buildings or parts of buildings, means that people regardless of disability, age or gender are able to gain access.

All works must conform to the guidance and recommendations given in the British Standards 8300:2001 'Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people-Code of Practice'.

In some cases Planning Permission, Listed Building Consent and Building Regulation Approval will be needed. It is vital that the proposals are checked on site by the Access Officer or a Council Officer.

The Disability Access grant is not intended to contribute towards works which are required by law or for which grant aid from another source could be obtained.

Consequently, where new buildings are required by Building Regulations to make provision for people with disabilities, no grant will be paid.

¹ A person has a disability if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day to day activities. It covers physical or mental impairments; this includes sensory impairments, such as those affecting sight or hearing. In considering your duties under the Disability Discrimination Act applicants should not use any definition of 'disabled person' which is narrower than that in the Disability Discrimination Act.

Employers seeking to widen job opportunities by opening up their workplaces to people with disabilities should initially contact the Department of Employment who have resources available for building adaptations and purchase of adapted equipment. The Disability Access Grant is not intended to assist improvements by National or Regional Concerns, to whom the sums involved are relatively small. Applicant organisations must be non - political.

Examples of Buildings Qualifying for a Disability Access Grant

- Sub Post Offices
- Places of Worship e.g. Church, Village Hall, Community Centre
- Independent place of entertainment & Social Clubs
- Voluntary Groups & Agencies

Examples of Buildings NOT Qualifying for this Grant

- New Buildings
- Private dwellings
- Premises occupied by Public bodies
- Shops & Offices occupied by large National companies

Examples of Eligible Work

- Provision of ramped access/egress at principle entrances
- Provision of accessible (Disabled WC facilities)
- Widening of doorways
- Provision of handrails, grab rails & support rails
- Installation of Induction loop and infra red systems
- Other relevant improvements considered necessary to assist those with disabilities

Examples of Work NOT Eligible

- Works to resurface paths, driveways and car parks
- Access Audit Surveys and reports
- Provision of sound reinforcement systems

Applications

An application for a Disability Grant must be completed out on the prescribed form that accompanies this information. The application must include a written estimate of the cost of the works, an Access Statement and drawings of the proposed works where appropriate.

Payment of Grant

Once an application has been approved, a formal letter of offer will be sent to you which will indicate the amount payable and the eligible works. Upon completion of the works you should submit copies of the receipted invoices to the Council for inspection. The Access Officer or Council Officer will then inspect the premises to ensure that the works have been carried satisfactorily. Payment of the grant will not be made if the works have not been carried out to the correct standard.

It is advisable to contact the Access Officer at an early stage to discuss the proposal and ensure there are no design problems.

Terms and Conditions

1. An application for grant aid must be made on the prescribed form and be accompanied by written estimates of the cost of the works and include an Access Statement.
2. All proposed works should be accessible to disabled people ². Accessible with respect to buildings or parts of buildings, means that people, regardless of disability, age or gender, are able to gain access.
3. Grant aid will only be given towards work which constitutes a permanent addition or alteration to a building.
4. Grant aid will not be given if the work has commenced before grant approval has been issued and accepted.
5. Grant Aid will not be given towards works which are required under the Building Regulations 2000 or other legislation.
6. Grant Aid will not normally be given in respect of the building erected in accordance with Plans deposited under Building Regulations after the 31st of July 1985.
7. All works must comply with the Building Regulations 2000.

² A person has a disability if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day to day activities. It covers physical or mental impairments; this includes sensory impairments, such as those affecting sight or hearing. In considering your duties under the Disability Discrimination Act applicants should not use any definition of 'disabled person' which is narrower than that in the Disability Discrimination Act.

Approved Document M 'Access to and use of Buildings' (2004 Edition) illustrates and is intended to provide guidance for some of the more common building situations. The guidance draws on the recommendations of the British Standards BS: 8300:2001 'Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people-Code of Practice.

8. The approval of Grant Aid is at the discretion of the Access Officer and is subject to the availability of funds within the Disability Access Grant Budget.
9. The Authority's offer of a grant does not cancel the necessity for the applicant to obtain Planning Permission, Listed Building Consent and Building Regulation Approval.
10. The Authority's letter offering the grant will contain additional terms and conditions which must be adhered to.
11. The acceptance slip must be returned with the formal grant offer letter must be signed dated and returned within two months of receipt and before the works are commenced.
12. Any grant approval/offer will only be available for a period of twelve months after which it will lapse if the work is not completed. The Disability Access Grant Scheme will lapse on the 31st March 2009.
13. The Grant will only be paid after the work has been completed to the satisfaction of the Access Officer.
14. Not more than one application for grant aid on any one site will be considered within one financial year.