

BRAY TOWN COUNCIL

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Disabled Persons Grants Scheme – Information Leaflet.

What is the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme?

Local Authorities may pay a grant to a person for the provision of additional accommodation or the carrying out of works of adaptation that, in the opinion of the authority, are reasonably necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a member of the household who is either:-

- (a) physically handicapped and the works are necessary for his or her proper accommodation, or
- (b) suffering from severe mental handicap or severe mental illness, for which he or she is undergoing treatment and the works are necessary for her/her proper treatment and accommodation.

How Do I Qualify?

You may qualify if the proposed works are necessary to render the house more suitable for the needs of the disabled person at his/her normal place of residence and the cost of the works is more than €254.

Is there an income limit for eligibility?

No. There is no income limit.

How much is the grant worth?

For houses let by the Local Authority – the full cost of the works approved by the local authority.

Is there a limit on the grant payable?

Yes – The grant will not exceed €20,320 where the house being adapted is more than one year old. Where a house is less than one year old or where a new house is being specifically provided and is suitably designed to meet the needs of a disabled person the grant will not exceed €12,700.

What Works Qualify for the payment of the Grant?

There is no approved list of works which will qualify for grant assistance under the scheme. However, the emphasis is clearly on works which are necessary, or which can reasonably be demonstrated to be necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of the disabled person.

Listed below are the type of works which may be considered. However it a matter for the Council to decide having regard to medical and technical reports received.

- Provision of specific accommodation where it caters for the need of the disabled person
- Provision of ground floor extension or other structural work where the Council is satisfied that the adaptation of existing accommodation space and/or the provision of a stair lift are not practical.
- Adaptation of bathrooms to provide specialised toilet and washing facilities
- Installation of Heating Systems only in exceptional circumstances and only if :
 - central heating has been installed in the existing accommodation the cost of extending same to any new accommodation where alternative heating methods (e.g. individual room heaters) are deemed unsuitable
 - central heating has not been installed in the existing accommodation but will be installed in conjunction with the provision of additional accommodation for the disabled person the Council may consider inclusion of apportioned cost.

In any event the most cost effective type of heating will normally be approved e.g. individual room heaters.

- Provision of Stair lifts
- Provision of water supply/sewerage
- Provision of specific accommodation where it caters for the need of the disabled person
- Provision of ramps, widening of doors, lowering of door hands, lowering of electrical fittings e.g. plug sockets, switches etc.

What Works will not be considered?

- Home Improvements/Repairs
- Works which do not directly address the disability
- Stand alone buildings
- Provision of non-residential accommodation (e.g. garage, utility storage room, garden walls etc.
- Works which are of general benefit to the household rather than specific benefit to the disabled persons

What do I need to submit with my application?

In the first instance the only requirement is

1. Completed application form in full
2. Completed Certificate by your Doctor (you may also submit a letter from your GP if you so desire in support of your application).

What will happen to my application when it is received by the Local Authority.

- Once your application is received it will be acknowledged by the Council and forwarded to the Area Health Board. Your application will be screened for eligibility and eligible applications are forwarded to the relevant Health Board Personnel for Assessment. (You will at this stage receive a letter of acknowledgement from the Health Board)
- The relevant health board official (i.e. Area Medical Officer or Occupational Therapist) will then make contact with you to make an appointment to call and carry out an assessment.
- Where necessary a joint visit may take place by the OT and a technical officer from the council in order to discuss the feasibility of the proposed works.
- The Occupational Therapist will provide a written report of the works required to meet your needs with specifications. The report will be sent to Bray Town Council with the recommendation of the Senior Area Medical Officer of the Health Board. You will also receive a copy of this report from the Health Board.
- Bray Town Council having regard to all the relevant information will make a final decision and advise you of the outcome.

- Once the grant is approved the agreed works can be carried out.

NB - The Occupational Therapist must be consulted at any stage during the construction, as relevant, if changes to the proposed plans are necessary. Work must be constructed in accordance with the Occupational Therapists Report.