

Caring

Will I have to pay towards the cost of the work?



Disabled Facilities Grants



Neath Port Talbot
Castell-nedd Port Talbot
County Borough Council / Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Making a difference / Gwahaniaeth er gwell

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Housing Renewal & Adaptations Service

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the work?**

May 2014

The Means Test

The aim of the grant system is to provide financial help for those who can least afford to pay for works to their properties. Therefore you will be subject to the following means test.

Will the Means test affect me?

Yes, if you are an owner-occupier or tenant the means test will apply to the combined incomes and savings of you and your partner.

Abolition of means test for disabled children and their families

In 2005 the Welsh Assembly Government announced the abolition of means test for disabled facilities grants for disabled children.

Passporting Benefits

If you receive one of the following 'Passporting Benefits', you will automatically qualify for full grant aid and will not be means tested:

- ◆ Income Support
- ◆ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ◆ Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- ◆ Guaranteed Pension Credit
- ◆ Housing Benefit
- ◆ Council Tax Reduction
- ◆ Tax Credits (where your total income is less than £16,190 per year)
- ◆ Universal Credit

How does the Means Test work?

Resources:

Your resources are calculated using, your average weekly income including any savings above £6000.

Basic needs:

Your basic needs are calculated using, a range of allowances and premiums depending on your particular circumstances.

If your resources are less than your basic needs, then it will be unlikely that you will need to contribute towards the cost of the works

If your resources are more than your basic needs, then the excess income will be used to calculate your financial contribution.

How much of a grant will I receive?

The amount of grant aid will be the difference between the cost of work and your financial contribution.

What income and savings are included?

- ◆ Earnings
- ◆ Pension payments
- ◆ Annuity payments
- ◆ Benefits and Allowances
- ◆ Savings, Investments and other Capital

Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Allowance (replacing DLA) are not treated as income but may help reduce any potential contribution you may have.

What outgoings are included?

- ◆ to a Student Grant
- ◆ Relevant Child Care Charges

How much income and savings am I allowed to have before I have to contribute towards the work?

There is no standard figure that can be given to advise you what you are allowed to earn before it affects your contribution. Everyone's circumstances are different which in turn affects the premiums and allowances that make up your basic needs assessment. For further advice on this contact the Grants Office.

What evidence will I be expected to provide?

During a home visit by one of your officers who will help complete your formal application you will be expected to provide relevant documents to verify the financial information stated on the application form. Such information will include: -

- ◆ The last **Two** monthly pay slips or the last **Five** weekly pay slips. (Brown pay envelopes are not acceptable)
- ◆ If you are self employed we will require an up to date audited statement of your accounts (normally covering the last 12 months)
- ◆ Up to date evidence of each bank account you have, (statements would have to cover at least two months transactions) including shares, ISA's, premium bonds, income bonds etc
- ◆ Evidence of any private or works pensions, which are received

Remember – the only accurate method of determining your contribution would be to complete a means test form including documentary evidence of your resources and submit to the relevant Grant Office so that they can calculate your contribution based on the information provided on the form.

If you would like more detailed information about Means Testing please contact us: -

Disabled Facilities Grants Team

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This leaflet is also available in large print, in Braille and in Welsh.

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