

- Your Local Council will be the authority who will assess and award a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) towards building adaptations work required for your child.
- It will usually be your child's Occupational Therapist who will start the process initially, though it could be a Social Worker or a member of your Child's Disability Team.
- The maximum grant that can be paid per application is £30,000 in England; £36,000 in Wales; £25,000 in Northern Ireland and in Scotland the sum is discretionary, depending on the local council.
- The DFG is not 'means tested' where it applies to adaptations for children.
- Once an application for a DFG has been submitted, the local authority must give you a decision within 6 months on the outcome, starting from the date of the application.
- The whole process can take around 18 months to 2 years from initial assessment to completion of works – though can be much quicker dependent on the amount of work required.
- A 'Top up' to meet costs above the DFG amount can be awarded, and is discretionary dependent on council rules and the family's finances. This could be in the form of a grant, a loan or a 'charge' against the house – ie: if you sell the house you may need to pay the top-up back to the council.
- DFG's are not limited to only one per lifetime, therefore a second DFG can sometimes be accessed simultaneously to cover the costs if this is deemed necessary and appropriate, and all the work required can't be completed under the first DFG amount awarded.
- The council usually appoint one of their team of approved architects and builders to quote for and carry out the work – normally a choice between three contractors.
- Dependent on your council, you may be able to appoint your own builder and architect, possibly with yourselves carrying out the project management of the work. This may represent a cost saving, but just be aware it could also mean additional work on your part!
- Some elements of the building and adaptations work may be VAT free – check with your supplier or contractor which parts of the work may qualify – this can represent a large saving!
- The council will propose their scheme for the adaptations, usually called a 'Notional' or 'Best Value' scheme. If these do not meet your requirements, you can propose a 'Preferred Scheme', but any costs over the DFG amount awarded may then be liable for you to fund yourselves.
- If funds are required above the DFG amount awarded which cannot be met elsewhere, for either the 'Best Value' or 'Preferred' scheme, then Sullivan's Heroes offers help. Families can apply to fundraise through the charity towards the project, and also apply for a financial grant.

To read more and apply for help visit: www.sullivansheroes.org/apply-for-help

**Visit www.sullivansheroes.org for further information about the above,
Disabled Facilities Grants and other Benefits**