



HELP WITH RENOVATIONS TO YOUR HOME OR DISABLED ADAPTATIONS A GUIDE



NORWICH
City Council

The council offers grants and loans to help people carry out repairs, improvements and adaptations to their homes.

Disabled facilities grant

What is it?

A grant towards adapting the home, or providing special facilities in the home of a person with a disability.

Who can apply?

Homeowners, private tenants and council tenants.

Homeowners can apply direct to Norwich Care & Repair.

If you are a tenant in a council house or flat you should contact the customer contact team first. Adaptations will probably be carried out without you needing to apply for a grant.

If you live in a property owned by a housing association you should approach them to start with. Most housing associations will also carry out disabled adaptations without the need for you to apply for a grant.

If you are private tenant, you will need to make sure you have permission from your landlord before applying.

What can be done?

This depends on the needs of the person. Examples include level-access showers, stair lifts, handrails or even new ground-floor extensions.

An occupational therapist from the county council social services will visit you at home and assess your needs. In most cases, where a need has been identified, you will be entitled to a grant.

How much financial help do we offer?

Up to £25,000. Please note that, unless the adaptations are for a child, the grant is means-tested so you may be asked to pay something towards the cost of the works.

We also offer up to £25,000 as an interest-free loan to top up Disabled Facility Grant if it is

is not sufficient to assist towards creating safe areas for children with behavioural disorders, providing access to the garden and other areas beyond the living accommodation and, where appropriate, the costs of relocating to more suitable accommodation.

Who should I contact for more information?

Norwich Care & Repair organises disabled facilities grants for the council. They will be able to tell you how to apply and put you in touch with an occupational therapist.

Norwich Care & Repair – see contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Decent Homes Loan

What is it?

An interest-free loan to enable homeowners to bring their property to the Decent Homes Standard.

Who can apply?

Home owners who are in receipt of one or more of the benefits listed at the end of this leaflet.

What can be done?

- Repairs
- Improvements to heating and insulation
- Improvements to bathroom and kitchen facilities

How much assistance do we offer?

Up to £25,000. This is an interest-free loan that is repaid when the house is eventually sold or transferred to another owner. This means you don't have to make regular repayments and the money may not have to be paid back for many years.

Who should I contact for more information?

Norwich Care & Repair – see contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Minor Works Grant

What is it?

A grant towards small scale repairs and improvements.

Who can apply?

Homeowners or private tenants who are in receipt of one or more of the benefits listed at the end of this leaflet.

What can be done?

- Small emergency repairs
- Urgent repairs to heating, electrics, plumbing and drainage
- Minor adaptations and improvements to enable someone to return home from hospital
- Home security improvements

How much help do we offer?

Up to £1,500 in any 12-month period. The grant doesn't have to be repaid.

Who should I contact for more information?

Norwich Care & Repair or, for home security, Norfolk PACT – see contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Empty homes grant

A grant towards bringing an empty dwelling back into use. This will be available until the end of March 2009 (limited funds still available).

Who can apply?

The owner of a dwelling that is empty and had been empty for at least six months on 1 October 2006.

What can be done?

Repairs and improvements to bring the property to the Decent Homes Standard.

How much help do we offer?

Up to £25,000. The first £7,500 is a full grant. Beyond £7,500 you must contribute 50 per cent of the extra cost of the works.

Who should I contact?

Customer contact team – ask for empty homes advice.

Private landlords

We don't currently offer grants or loans to private landlords.

Organising the work

Norwich Care & Repair offers a service to find builders and supervise the work for you. You can also arrange for the work to be carried out yourself or employ an agent to arrange it for you. The costs for this can be included in the grant or loan. It is very important that you do not start the work before a grant or loan has been approved.

How does the council decide who gets help?

In most cases, where an occupational therapist agrees that you qualify, you will be entitled to a Disabled Facilities Grant.

The council doesn't have to give you a Decent Homes Loan or Minor Works Grant but if you are eligible and the works fall within the policy we will normally make an offer. Sometimes, due to high demand, it's necessary to hold people on a waiting list.

If you are turned down for help by Norwich Care & Repair they will always give you the reason for doing so. However, you may ask for your case to be reconsidered by the private sector housing manager at the council.

Eligibility

Decent Homes Loans and Minor Works Grants are currently available to people who are in receipt of at least one of the following benefits:

- income support
- housing benefit
- council tax benefit
- income based job seekers allowance
- child tax credit (with a household income less than £15,050)*
- working tax credit (with a disability element and a household income less than £15,050)
- attendance allowance
- disability living allowance
- industrial injuries disablement benefit
- war disablement pension
- pension credit

* This amount is reviewed from time to time.

Contacts

Norwich Care & Repair c/o Orbit Housing Association

14 St Matthews Road
Norwich NR1 1SP

t: 01603 283337

(Please phone or write rather
than call into the office because
Norwich Care & Repair does
not have a public reception)

Norfolk Partnership Against Crime Taskforce (Norfolk PACT)

t: 01953 424722

Customer contact team

Norwich City Council
City Hall
Norwich NR2 1NH

t: 0844 980 3333

e: info@norwich.gov.uk

Further information

For further information please contact the
customer contact team:

t: 0844 980 3333

e: info@norwich.gov.uk

City Hall Norwich NR2 1NH

**IF YOU REQUIRE THIS LEAFLET IN ANOTHER
FORMAT OR LANGUAGE PLEASE CONTACT
NORWICH CITY COUNCIL.**

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