Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Easy Read

Our ideas for changing home improvement grants

Tell us what you think





Easy Read

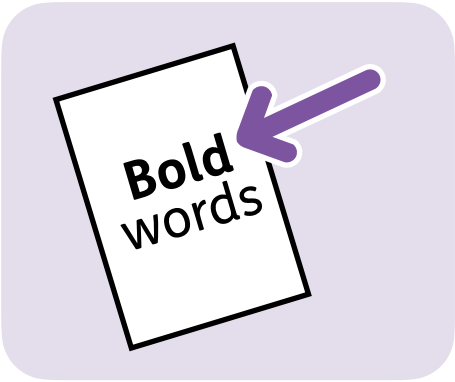


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

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About this booklet

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

This booklet is a **survey** from the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.



A **survey** is a set of questions for you to answer.



We want to make some changes to **home improvement grants.**

Home improvement grants are payments we give people to improve their homes



Please fill out this survey to tell us what you think about these changes.

About this survey

We have:



- 8 ideas for how we could change the **disabled facilities grant**.

  The **disabled facilities gran**t is money paid to disabled people to make their homes easier to live in.



- 2 ideas for how we could change other home improvement grants.

We think these ideas will help make sure that:



- People get the help they need.



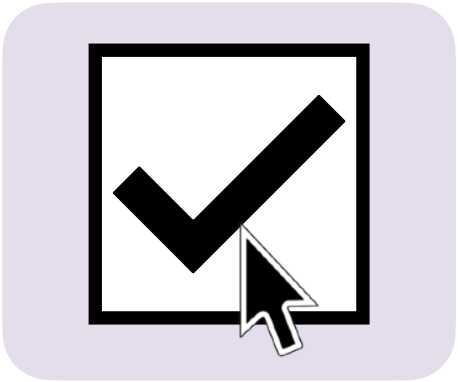
- We spend money in a way that helps people who need it most.

How to use this survey



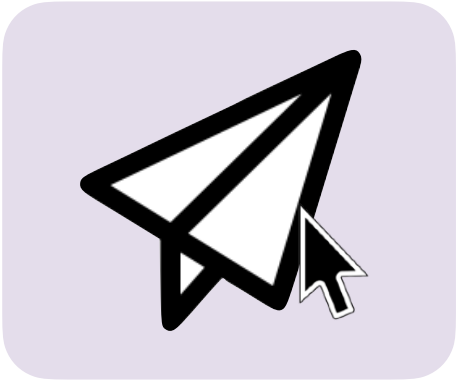
You can complete this survey on your computer.

First you will need to download it.



Then open the survey on your computer.

You will be able to click or write in the boxes.



When you have finished the survey, save it to your computer.

Then email a copy to: DfCNIHESponsorTeam@communities-ni.gov.uk



Please fill out this survey and send us your answers by
28 December 2026.

The disabled facilities grant



Remember, the **disabled facilities grant** is money paid to disabled people to make their homes easier to live in.



You can use this money to pay for things like stair lifts, ramps, or making rooms bigger.



You can usually get up to 35 thousand pounds from this grant.



You can sometimes get up to 70 thousand pounds from this grant.

At the moment, to apply for the disabled facilities grant, you must:



- Fill out a long form.



- Send us lots of information about how much money you have.



Applying for this grant can be stressful and take a long time.



It often takes over 2 years to get the grant after you apply.

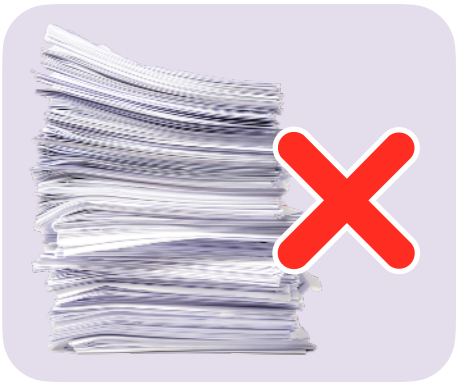


We have 8 ideas to help make it quicker and easier to apply for the disabled facilities grant.

Idea 1



Idea 1 is to make it easier for us to collect information about how much money people have.



This means people would not have to do as much paperwork when they apply.



Question 1a: Do you agree with idea 1?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 1b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 1:

Idea 2



Idea 2 is to change the rules so more people can get the disabled facilities grant.



We will also check the largest amount of money people can get from the disabled facilities grant every 3 years.



This will help us to see if people should get more money.



Question 2a: Do you agree with idea 2?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 2b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 2:

Idea 3



If you get the disabled facilities grant, you must arrange any changes to your home yourself.



This can be difficult and take a long time.



Idea 3 is to give people more help with arranging changes to their home.



Question 3a: Do you agree with idea 3?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 3b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 3:

Idea 4



Before you can get the disabled facilities grant, you must get a **quote.**

A **quote** is a document that says how much something will cost.



You must get the quote from the person or business that is making changes to your home.



Getting a quote can take a long time, so it takes people longer to apply for the disabled facilities grant.



Idea 4 is to change the rules so that you do not need to get a quote.



Question 4a: Do you agree with idea 4?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 4b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 4:

Idea 5



Some people may need to make changes to their home very quickly.

This may be because:



- They have a very serious illness.



- Their home is not safe to live in.



Idea 5 is to make sure these people can get the disabled facilities grant sooner.



Question 5a: Do you agree with idea 5?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 5b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 5:

Idea 6



1 home

At the moment, you can only use the disabled facilities grant for 1 home.



This is not fair to disabled children with parents who live in 2 different homes.



2 homes

Idea 6 is to allow some families to get the grant for changes in both homes.



This would only be allowed if the disabled child spends the same amount of time in each home.



Question 6a: Do you agree with idea 6?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 6b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 6:

Idea 7



At the moment, some people must pay money towards the cost of changes to their homes.



But some people cannot afford to pay this money.



Idea 7 is to lend these people some money to pay towards the changes.



They would only have to pay us back after they leave their home.



Question 7a: Do you agree with idea 7?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 7b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 7:

Idea 8



Idea 8 is to get some people to pay part of the disabled facilities grant back to us.



This would happen if someone sold their home soon after making changes to it.



Question 8a: Do you agree with idea 8?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 8b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 8:

The repair grant



The **repair grant** is a grant to help fix problems in a rented home.



You can get this grant if the council says your home is not safe enough to live in.



This grant is usually for **landlords**.

A **landlord** is a person who rents out a home to another person.



If you apply for this grant, you can get up to 7,500 pounds over 3 years.

Idea 9



Lots of people think the repair grant is not fair.



They think landlords should use their own money to fix problems in their homes.



Idea 9 is to replace the repair grant with a new grant.



The new grant will have stricter rules about who can get money for repairs.



The new grant will make it easier for councils to help the people who need it the most.



Question 9a: Do you agree with idea 9?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 9b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 9:

Discretionary grants



Discretionary grants are home improvement grants with strict rules about who can get them.



The **Housing Executive** decides when discretionary grants are available and who can get them.



The **Housing Executive** is an organisation in charge of many different homes in Northern Ireland.



Applying for discretionary grants can be confusing.



This is because there are lots of different discretionary grants, with lots of different rules.

Idea 10



Idea 10 is to have 1 discretionary grant instead of lots of different grants.



We think this will make it easier for people to find out if they can get a discretionary grant.



This 1 grant would only help the people who need it the most.

For example, people who live in homes that are not safe to live in.



Question 10a: Do you agree with idea 10?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 10b: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about idea 10:

Final questions



Question 11: Do you think the ideas in this survey will help make home improvement grants better?

- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No.
- [ ] I am not sure.



Question 12: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts about home improvement grants:



Question 13: Please tell us who you are filling out this survey for.

Only tick 1 box.

☐ I am filling out this survey for myself.

☐ I am filling out this survey for an organisation.



Question 14: If you are filling out this survey for an organisation, please tell us what kind of organisation you work for:



Question 15: If you are filling out this survey for yourself, please tell us more about yourself.

Only tick 1 box.

- [ ] I am a homeowner.
- [ ] I am a tenant.
- [ ] I am a landlord.
- [ ] I work for a health or housing organisation.
- [ ] Something else - please say:



Question 16: Please tell us about your experience of home improvement grants.

Tick all the answers that are true for you.

- [ ] I am applying for a home improvement grant at the moment.
- [ ] I have used or applied for a home improvement grant in the past.
- [ ] I am thinking about applying for a home improvement grant.
- [ ] I help care for someone who needs a home improvement grant.
- [ ] None of these.

Find out more



Thank you for filling out this survey.



You can look at our website here:
www.communities-ni.gov.uk



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this short survey to tell us what you think:
www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

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