

FACTSHEET NO. 1: GRANTS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

If you have a disability, or you are a disabled person on a low income, there are many sources of financial help and support available in the private, public and voluntary sector. These complement the government's welfare benefits program.

Below is a selection of sources of help available, with details of how to apply.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

A discretionary housing payment could help top up your housing benefit if you are facing hardship, including if you have been affected by recent housing benefit changes, for example the bedroom tax, but a discretionary housing payment is not a long term solution.

In order to be eligible for one of these payments to cover the shortfall in benefit caused by the bedroom tax, you would need to demonstrate that you are actively looking for alternative accommodation. This payment is however also paid for other reasons such as:

- It can also be paid for rent deposits, rent in advance and moving costs providing you are entitled to Housing Benefit at the time you apply.
- It can also be paid in some cases if you have had your Housing Benefit reduced because of the Benefit Cap.

To claim, contact Hillingdon Borough Council
<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/15470/Discretionary-housing-payment> or call 01895 250111 (this number is also available if you need to use text relay).

Local Welfare Support Scheme

Local Welfare Support Scheme replaces the crisis loans and community care grants that formed the Social Fund. These payments can be used for items such as fridges, cookers, beds, carpets and other household equipment.

More information can be found here: <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/26493/Hillingdon-Local-welfare-support-scheme>

To claim, phone 0800 0281402 between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

Disabled Facilities Grants are grants provided by your council (local authority) to help with the access needs of a disabled person. The scheme operates in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. You do not need to be receipt of DLA or PIP.

To find out more visit <http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/12900> or call 01895 250111 for an application form (this number is also available if you need to use text relay).

Disabled Students Allowance

As a higher education student living in England, you can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if you have a:

- disability
- long-term health condition
- mental health condition
- specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia

For more information visit www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview where you can download the DSA1 form.

Access to Work

If you have a disability or long term physical or mental health condition, Access to Work can provide practical and financial support to help you overcome barriers to starting or keeping a job.

For more information visit www.gov.uk/access-to-work or phone 0345 268 8489.

Turn 2 Us

Turn2us helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help – online, by phone and face to face through their partner organisations.

They are part of Elizabeth Finn Care.

Contact details are: 0808 802 2000 Website address: www.turn2us.org.uk