



Foundations

# DFG and Assistive Technology

# About Foundations

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National Body for Disabled  
Facilities Grants and Home  
Improvement Agencies in  
England

As contracted by the  
Department of Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities





Foundations

**NEW Guidance**



Disabled Facilities Grant  
(G) Delivery:  
ance for Local

# Assistive Technology

**‘products or systems that support and assist individuals with disabilities, restricted mobility or other impairments to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible’**

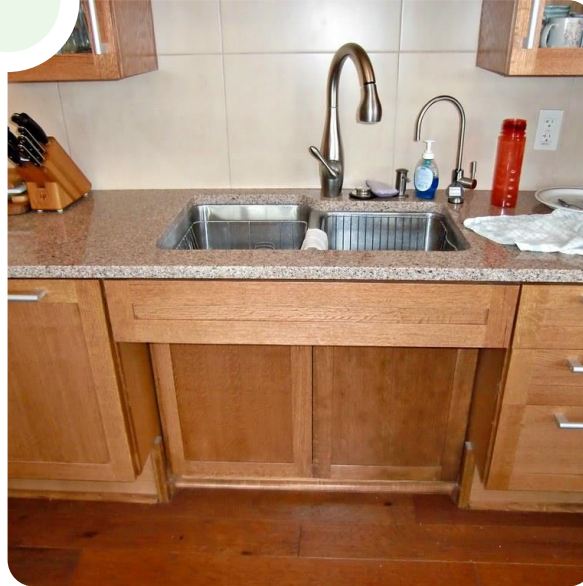


# Purpose by purpose



**Facilitating access to and movement within the dwelling**

Automated door openers  
Stair and platform lifts



**The preparation and cooking of food**

Adapted and height adjustable cooking surfaces



**Accessing and using the bedroom**

Ceiling track hoists

# Controlling Heat, Light and Power



## Smart Lighting

Can be remotely turned on and off, made brighter or dimmed, change colour and synchronise with other devices



## Smart Thermostats

Can learn user temperature preferences and self-adjust when users leave or enter a room, and be remotely controlled via a smart phone or another device



## Smart Hubs

Allows people to control household devices and appliances using a voice activated assistant



## Smart Switches & Sockets

Switch appliances and lights on and off remotely, or can be triggered by other sensors

# Improving digital connectivity within a dwelling

**7.9 Local authorities should note that some products may need a suitable level of digital connectivity to function. If the dwelling does not already have the necessary infrastructure to support assistive technologies, they may use the Disabled Facilities Grant to fund capital equipment if it is required to support the overall package of adaptations to the home such as:**

- **Wireless routers**
- **Wi-Fi signal extenders**
- **Cabling**

# **Improving digital connectivity within a dwelling**

**7.10 Some assistive technologies have associated ongoing maintenance and support costs. The DFG can fund installation costs and fees associated with the initial set up of the capital adaptation, but it does not fund ongoing maintenance or support costs. Ongoing costs (such as monthly fees to an Internet Service Provider) cannot be included in a DFG award.**



**But when is it  
'necessary and  
appropriate'?**



# **Assistive technology assessments**

- 7.11 Appropriate assessments are vital to making sure that assistive technology meets the needs of individual users and does not fall into disuse. Assistive technology assessments can be built into the triage and assessment process for the Disabled Facilities Grant**
- 7.12 The aim of assistive technology assessments should be to match the everyday activities and situational requirements of the disabled person to the features and capabilities of the available products and services.**

**Is DFG the right way  
to fund AT?**



# **Is DFG the right funding stream?**

**Local authorities should consider the most appropriate way to provide smart technology where it is not part of a larger adaptation, and whether an application for DFG is the most cost-effective way to do so.**

**Some areas include a streamlined grant within their Housing Assistance Policy.**

**More likely to be home automation than alarms or monitoring.**



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