

## Frequently Asked Questions – All Grant Schemes

### Where do I apply?

You should apply at your local area office:

Limerick City & County Council Offices, County Hall, Dooradoyle	061 496422
Limerick City & County Council Offices, The Courthouse, Kilmallock	063 98019
Limerick City & County Co. Offices, Áras Wm Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West	069 62100
Limerick City & County Council Offices, New Line, Rathkeale	069 64047
Limerick City & County Council Offices, Merchant's Quay, Limerick	061 407100

### I've started the works – is it too late to apply?

**YES** – works must not be commenced before the written approval of the Council is given.

### What documents will be required?

- **Fully completed** and signed form – **any form not fully completed will be returned;**
- Quotations for the works – two quotations are required for the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability and for Stair-lifts, otherwise one quotation is sufficient;
- Proof Payment of Local Property Tax
- Evidence of ownership of your home must be included - if you are renting, please contact your local area office for advice;
- Evidence of Household Income from all sources– see relevant question below;
- Medical Report if applicable;
- Tax Clearance Certificates for yourself and the contractor – see relevant questions below
- Occupational Therapist Report may be required – see relevant question below.

### How is Household Income Calculated?

Household income is calculated as the annual gross income of all household members over 18 (or over 23 if in full time education) in the previous tax year.

In determining gross household income local authorities shall apply the following disregards:

- €5,000 for each member of the household aged up to age 18 years;
- €5,000 for each member of the household aged between 18 and 23 years and in full time education or engaged in a FAS apprenticeship;
- €5,000 where the person for whom the application for grant aid is sought, is being cared for by a relative on a full-time basis;
- Child Benefit
- Early Childcare Supplement
- Family Income Supplement
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Respite Care Grant
- Foster Care Grant
- Fuel Allowance
- Carer's Benefit / Allowance

**What Proof of Household Income is required?**

- In the case of PAYE workers, P60 or P21 Balancing Statement for the previous tax year
- In the case of self-employed or farmers, Income Tax Assessment form, together with a copy of accounts for the previous tax year
- In the case of social welfare recipients, a statement from Social Welfare stating weekly/annual payments or P21 Balancing Statement
- In the case of State Pensioners a copy of the payment card and a payment slip from An Post or P21 Balancing Statement for the previous tax year.
- In the case of earnings from savings and investments, a certificate of interest or a dividend certificate.

**Evidence of household income must be submitted in respect of all household members****Do I need a Tax Clearance Certificate?**

Yes – if you are being paid a grant of €10,000 or more – this can be obtained from your local tax office.

**Who selects a contractor?**

It is up to you to select a contractor – the Contractor must be able to provide Tax Clearance Certificate/C2 card in order for you to claim the grant. This must be submitted with the application form and quotation. You do not have to use the contractor who submits the quotation for you. However, if you use an alternative contractor and the cost of the works is higher than the original quotation your grant will not be increased. If you use an alternative contractor and the cost of works is lower than the grant amount, you will be paid the lower amount. You will need to get a new Tax Clearance Certificate/C2 card also.

**I've been approved – how long do I have to do the works?**

Works should be completed within six months of the grant being approved – the final date will be put in the letter awarding the grant for your information. If for any reason, you cannot complete the works within this time, you should contact your area office as early as possible.

**The works are done – what is the next step?**

You must first pay the Contractor, and then forward the receipt to your local area office. An engineer will call to inspect the works, and make a recommendation on payment. Your grant will be paid as soon as possible after that, however this is dependant on sufficient funds being available to pay the grant.

**I've been paid a Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability/Mobility Aids Grant– can I claim the VAT back?**

Yes – if you contact your local area office, you will be given a form to submit to the Revenue Commissioners. You will need to request the return of the original receipts from the Area Office

### **Is the grant prioritised on medical need?**

Special consideration is given to applicants who require essential repairs or improvement works as a matter of urgency, e.g. individuals in hospital who require the works to be completed in order to facilitate the continuance of their care in their own home or to facilitate their direct return home.

### **I've been refused – can I appeal the decision?**

Yes – the following procedure shall apply to each appeal:

- Applicants are invited to submit a written appeal on any decision notified to them by the local authority on their application within 3 weeks of the date of the decision;
- The appeal must state the reasons for the appeal and the grounds for same;
- Appeals will be considered and adjudicated on by the Director of Services of the Housing Section or an official designated by the Director for such purpose;
- Appeals will be considered and adjudicated upon within 4 weeks of receipt of the appeal;
- A decision on an appeal will be notified to each applicant within 2 weeks of the decision being made.

### **What grants are available towards insulation?**

There are 2 other Grant Schemes, not administered by Limerick County Council, which may be able to assist with energy proofing your home – details below

#### **Warmer Homes Scheme:**

- For persons in receipt of a Pension from the Department of Social and Family Affairs or Disability Allowance;
- Treating items such as Attic Insulation, Draught Proofing, Lagging Jackets, CFL Bulbs;
- ☎ Southill Community Services at (061) 415340.

#### **Better Energy Homes Scheme**

Grants may be available to eligible applicants for undertaking the following works:

- Attic Insulation
- Wall Insulation – this includes either cavity wall, internal dry lining or external insulation
- Installation of a High Efficiency (> 90%) Gas or Oil fired Boilers with Heating Controls Upgrade
- Heating Controls Upgrade
- Solar Heating
- Building Energy Rating (BER)

Please contact:

Better Energy Homes Scheme, The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland,

P.O. Box 119, Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry

Tel: 1850-927000

<http://www.seai.ie/Grants>

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Housing Adaptation Grant for People with A Disability**

### **Who is it for?**

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment.

### **Do I need an Occupational Therapist's Report?**

To accept a grant application an Occupational Therapist Report is required for all work except for the conversion of an existing bathroom into walk-in shower facilities. In the case of bathroom conversions an Inspector may request a report after initial inspection.

### **Do I have to own my house?**

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability may be paid, where appropriate, in respect of works carried out to:

- Owner occupied housing;
- Houses being purchased from a Local Authority under the tenant purchase scheme;
- Private rented accommodation;
- Accommodation provided under the voluntary housing Capital Assistance and Rental Subsidy schemes; and
- Accommodation occupied by persons living in communal residences.

### **What works are allowed?**

The types of works allowable under the scheme include the provision of access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stair-lifts, accessible showers, adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access, extensions, and any other works which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability.

### **How much is the grant?**

<b>Annual Household Income</b>	<b>Percentage of Cost of Works Available</b>	<b>Maximum Grant for houses erected for more than 12 months</b>	<b>Maximum Grant for houses erected for less than 12 months</b>
Up to €30,000	95%	€30,000	€14,500
€30,001 – €35,000	85%	€25,000	€12,325
€35,001 – €40,000	75%	€22,500	€10,875
€40,001 – €50,000	50%	€15,000	€7,250
€50,001 – €60,000	30%	€9,000	€4,350
In excess of €60,000	No grant is payable		

## **Frequently Asked Questions - Mobility Aids Grant**

### **Who is it For?**

The Mobility Aids Grant is available to cover basic works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with aging.

### **What works are included?**

- Grab Rails;
- Access Ramps;
- Level Access Showers
- Stair Lifts
- Other minor works deemed necessary to facilitate the mobility needs of a member of a household

### **How much is the grant?**

The maximum grant under this scheme is €6,000 or 100% of the cost of the works, whichever is the lesser, excluding VAT. This grant is not available where household income exceeds €30,000. The VAT may be claimed back from the Revenue Commissioners – your local Area Office will provide you with a form for this.

### **Do I need an Occupational Therapist's Report?**

To accept a grant application Limerick City and County Council requires an Occupational Therapist Report for all work except for the conversion of an existing bathroom into walk-in shower facilities. In the case of bathroom conversions an Inspector may request a report after initial inspection.

## Frequently Asked Questions - Housing Aid for Older People Grant

### Who is it for?

Applicants should be 66 years of age (or over) and should be living on their own or with a spouse or with another person 66 years of age (or over).

The scheme applies to home owners and to people purchasing their house from a Local Authority under a Tenant Purchase Scheme.

### What works are included?

The Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People is available to assist **older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out.**

The types of works grant aided under the scheme include re-roofing, re-wiring, and the provision of central heating (where none exists).

**N.B. Central Heating**:- There is no grant available under this scheme for upgrading an existing central heating system. These grants are available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland at 1850 927000

Applicants applying to carry out **rewiring** must enclose with their application, written confirmation from a qualified electrician stating the condition of the existing wiring.

Applicants applying to carry out **roof repairs/ replacement** will be required to submit with their application, written confirmation from their insurance company that such repairs are not covered by their existing insurance policy.

### How much is the grant?

The amount of the grant is determined on the basis of gross household income, and is means tested. The table below sets out the level of grant - The maximum grant is €10,500 – The maximum grant for windows and doors is €2,500.

Gross maximum household income p.a.	% of costs available	Maximum Grant available
Up to €30,000	95%	€8,000
€30,001 - €35,000	85%	€6,800
€35,001 - €40,000	75%	€6,000
€40,001 - €50,000	50%	€4,000
€50,001 - €60,000	30%	€2,400
In excess of €60,000	No grant is payable	No grant is payable