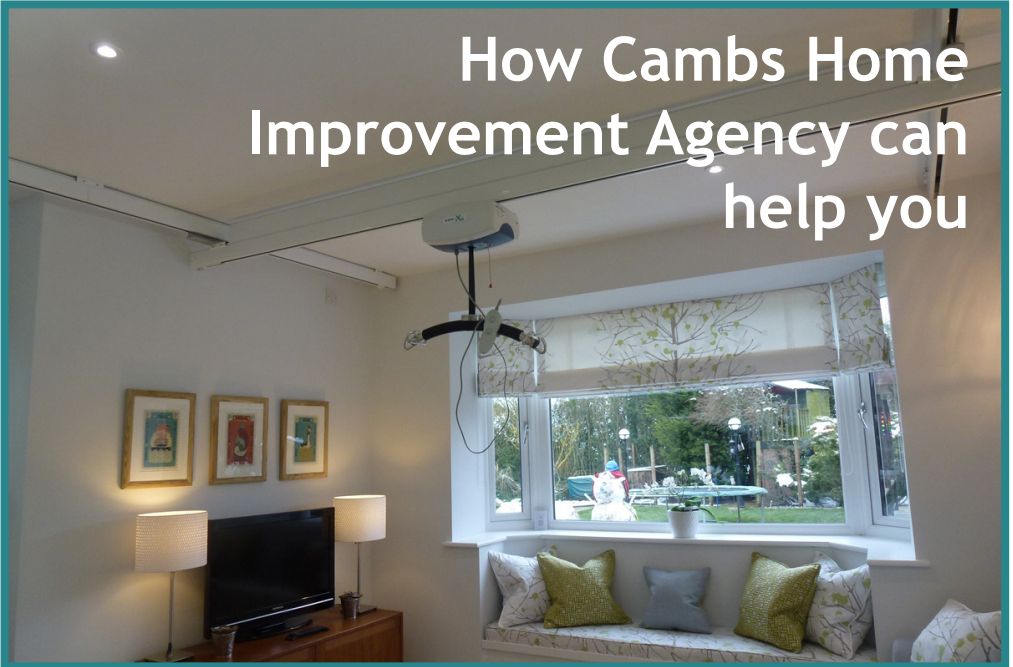


Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)



How Cambs Home Improvement Agency can help you



Cambs Home Improvement Agency works in Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire

What is Cambs HIA?

Cambs HIA is the Home Improvement Agency covering Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Council areas.

The agency's aim is to assist elderly, disabled and vulnerable people with building related works to their home that will allow them to remain living independently, safely and comfortably for as long as they wish.

With an experienced team of Caseworkers and Surveyors we work with clients to help find the right solution to meet their needs.

About Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

We will assist clients with the application process for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs). Such grants are given by local councils under Part I of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.

DFGs are mandatory grants for disabled people to carry out essential adaptations to give better freedom of movement into and around the home and to access essential facilities within it. Some examples of work eligible under a DFG are:

- Improving access to or from and around the property
- Providing safe access to bathing
- Improving or providing a heating system or adapting heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use



Further information can be found in the DFG Handbook available from Cambs HIA

To be considered for a DFG

We will advise the disabled person to contact Cambridgeshire Direct to request an assessment by an Occupational Therapist. This is to ensure that any adaptations recommended will meet the needs of the disabled person.



Making arrangements privately

An applicant may choose to make private arrangements to have their needs assessed, progress their application and project manage the works with contractors of their choice. More information about this option and the costs are available on request.

About the costs and funding for a DFG

Grants are means tested (except where they are for a disabled child) and an applicant may be required to make a contribution towards the cost of the work.

For building works that qualify, up to £30,000 is available as a DFG. Most peoples' needs can be met for far less than this.



Where the grant is insufficient to meet the full costs of the work required, the agency may be able to assist in applying for discretionary funding from the local authority (not available via South Cambs DC) or from charitable or other organisations, including the County Council subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

Any funding awarded may be a grant or a loan and may be subject to a charge on the property.

Cambs HIA will charge a fee based on the net cost of any building work. If the client qualifies for a full grant this will form part of the grant amount.



If I am eligible, can I be sure I will get DFG funding ?

You can only be certain you will get a grant when the Council for the area you live in, sends you a DFG Grant Approval letter.

What if my property is unsuitable for adaptation?

Where the existing property cannot be adapted or where the cost of adapting is deemed excessive, a grant to help the disabled person relocate to a more suitable property may be offered.

About the services of Cambs HIA

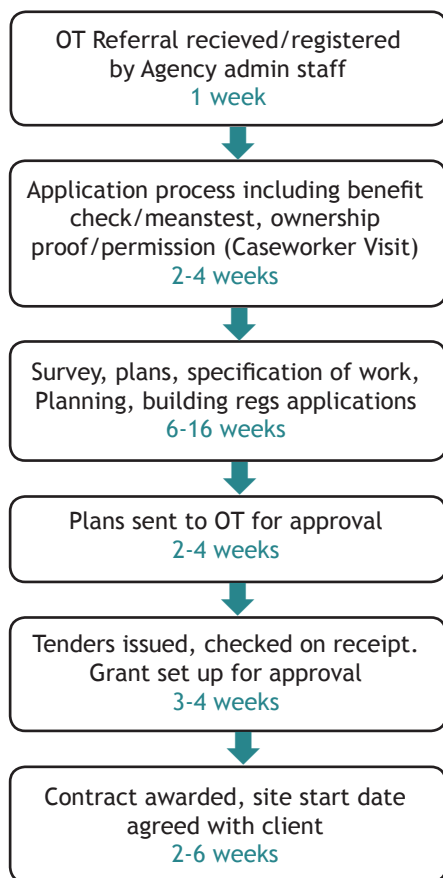
The Agency will work with the client to:

- Project manage the work from start to finish
- Assist with application process and carry out a financial assessment to check whether a contribution towards the costs will be required (called Test of Resources)
- Refer clients on to other agencies to maximise their income and help source alternative funding if required
- Carry out surveys (where required), produce plans and write specifications for works, deal with planning and building regulations applications where appropriate
- Tender for works, oversee work on site and carry out inspections as appropriate
- Ensure that the work is satisfactorily completed and meets the clients needs
- Liaise with the local authority to secure grant approval, check invoices and authorise payments



How long will this take?

The length of time taken will depend on getting necessary information about the applicant, the nature of the works and whether any additional permissions are needed (from the owner of the property or planning permission, for example). This can take a long time. Typically, you can expect works to be completed within 4-8 months.



Useful contacts

Cambridgeshire Direct (including Adult OT Service)

0345 0455205

Occupational Therapy (Children)

01223 884104

Cambridge City Council Tenants

01223 457833

East Cambridgeshire District Council

01353 665555

East Cambs Care & Repair

01353 616950 (from 2nd April 2013)

Fenland District Council

01354 654321

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Care & Repair

01553 616677

Huntingdonshire District Council

01480 388238

South Cambridgeshire District Council Tenants

0345 0450051

Age UK Cambridgeshire

0300 666 9860

CONTACT US

Cambs Home Improvement Agency

South Cambs Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
CB23 6EA

Tel: 01954 713330
or 01954 713347

Fax: 01954 713234

Email: hia@cambshia.org

Office hours:

Monday -Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm

Friday 8:30am - 4.30pm

Messages can be left at any time.

