

## Social Housing

Social housing is provided by Local Authorities and Voluntary Housing Associations.

Voluntary Housing Associations are non profit housing providers funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to build housing units to accommodate people who are on local authority housing lists.

## Who can apply?

People who are unable to provide for their accommodation from their own resources are eligible to apply for social housing. In the Housing Act of 1966 people with disabilities are named as a particular group of people for whom local authorities are expected to make housing provision. Social housing has provided many people with disabilities with good quality and affordable accommodation that is well designed and in a good location.

## Register with Local Authority

The process of applying for, and being allocated housing by the Local Authority can take time. It is advisable to register one's housing need with the Local Authority as soon as a person begins to think about making provision for their future housing accommodation needs.

Having one's name on the local authority housing list also provides a gateway to apply for housing to Voluntary Housing Associations.

## Steps in Making Application for Social Housing

- Request an application form from the Housing Department of the relevant Local Authority i.e. the Local Authority in your area or in the area in which you wish to live.
- Complete and return the application form accompanied by supporting letters from your GP, Hospital Consultant and Occupational Therapist.
- Enclose your own cover letter giving details of your present housing situation and your future housing requirements, e.g. if you require wheelchair accessible accommodation, if you require a second bedroom as you have a personal assistant working with you, plus any other details that you think are important and relevant to your situation.
- Keep in contact with the local authority, by phone or in person, regarding the processing of your application

## Number of applicants on housing lists

There are many thousands of names on Local Authority housing lists. In order for your application to get a priority status, the relevant Authority must understand the urgency of your situation. A decision on the status of your application will be largely based on the medical reports that you submit and on a home visit carried out by a Local Authority staff member. When your application has been processed the Local Authority will notify you of your standing on the Housing List. Once you have received this information you are then in a position to negotiate with the Local Authority regarding potential housing options.

## Provision of wheelchair accessible social housing

The majority of the social housing stock is not wheelchair accessible. While existing housing units can sometimes be adapted, housing adaptation is often a compromise. The preferred solution may be a purpose designed house or flat in a new housing development being built by the Local Authority or by a Voluntary Housing Association.

Information on building in a particular area by the Local Authority and the Voluntary Housing Associations can be given by the Housing Construction / Development Department of the relevant Local Authority or by The Irish Council for Social Housing, an umbrella organisation of Voluntary Housing Associations.

## Local Authorities in Dublin

### Dublin City Council

Housing Allocations  
Block 2 Ground Floor Civic Offices  
Wood Quay Dublin 8.  
Tel. 672 2222.

### Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

Housing Allocations  
Town Hall, Marine Road,  
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.  
Tel. 205 4105.

### Fingal County Council

Housing Allocations  
46-49 O'Connell St. Dublin 1  
Tel. 890 5000.

### South Dublin County Council

Housing Allocations  
County Hall Tallaght, Dublin 24.  
Tel. 414 9090.

Information on Voluntary Housing  
Associations and Housing Co-operatives  
is available from the  
Irish Council for Social Housing,  
50 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.  
Tel. 01 661 8334.

For further information and to register with  
IWA Housing Support  
contact

**Dolores Murphy**  
IWA Housing Support Worker  
at 01 818 6425 (direct) or  
01 818 6400

E-mail: [dolores.murphy@iwa.ie](mailto:dolores.murphy@iwa.ie)

**IWA Housing Support Section**  
will work with you to bring  
about your desired housing option.

## Mission Statement

The Irish Wheelchair Association is the national organisation dedicated to the achievement of the full social, economic and educational integration of people with disabilities as equal, independent and participative members within the general community.

## Headquarters

**Irish Wheelchair Association**  
**Áras Chúchulainn**  
**Blackheath Drive**  
**Clontarf, Dublin 3**  
**Tel. 01 818 4600**  
**Fax 01 833 3873**

# Making an Application for Social Housing

