For more information, please contact:

The Accessibility Fund Secretariat
Universal Design Department
Building and Construction Authority
5 Maxwell Road
#07-00 Tower Block, MND Complex
Singapore 069110

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Visit our Friendly Built Environment Portal at www.friendlybuildings.sg
Building and Construction Authority (BCA) champions a friendly built environment. A friendly built environment enables children, elderly persons, as well as persons with limited mobility to lead independent and active lifestyle, which is essential for an inclusive society in Singapore. BCA launched $40-million Accessibility Fund to improve accessibility of existing private buildings built before the implementation of mandatory requirements as per the Code on Barrier-Free Accessibility in Buildings (1990).
The Accessibility Fund provides grants to owners of pre 1990 private buildings (except landed residential properties) for upgrading their existing buildings with basic accessibility features. The fund would co-pay the owner up to 80% of the construction cost of the Basic Accessibility Features cited below:

a) Accessible approach to the Building;
b) Ramps/Lifts for improving accessibility in Building’s first floor;
c) Accessible toilet in Building’s first floor or entrance level; and
d) Signage for finding way to Building’s accessibility features.

The fund would provide grants up to 80% of the construction cost of a passenger lift of Singapore Standard (SS550) for buildings which require lift for accessibility as per the prevailing Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment. The grant amount for lift is capped at S$200,000.

The fund would also provide grants up to 40% of the construction cost of additional accessible toilets, accessible ramps, and Family Friendly Features cited below:

a) diaper -changing station;
b) lactation room;
c) child-friendly water closet, wash basin and urinal;
d) water closet compartment for ambulant disabled; and
e) family washroom.
a) The Fund is applicable only for the upgrading of existing private buildings built before the implementation of mandatory requirements as per the Code on Barrier-Free Accessibility in Buildings (1990). The fund will expire in 2016.

b) The Accessibility Fund does not apply to buildings undergoing major alterations & additions, which under the current building regulation have to comply with the Code on Barrier-Free Accessibility in Buildings.

c) For private residential buildings, the Fund is only applicable to the accessibility features for communal area. Individual dwelling units are not eligible for the Fund.

d) The Fund only covers the costs of construction works for accessibility features and the family friendly features cited in this booklet. The Fund doesn’t cover the fees for consultants and Building Plan submissions.

e) Applicants must comply with the building regulations and statutory requirements pertaining to the upgrading of their buildings.

f) Total fund amount for a development is capped at S$300,000 and only one application per building will be accepted.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Building owners, lessors who have the ownership right to upgrade the building and lessees who can carry out the upgrading works with the endorsement of the building owners/lessors are eligible to apply for the Fund. Eligible applicant could fill up the prescribed form and submit it with required supporting documents to:

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

a) A short write-up on the purpose of applying the fund;
b) All necessary drawings showing plans and details of proposed accessibility works;
c) A schedule of proposed upgrading works;
d) Letter of undertaking to complete the works within the time stipulated;
e) Digital photographs of the areas and its immediate surroundings where upgrading works are to be carried out;
f) Detailed estimates including cost break-down by items; and
g) Access Route Plan that indicates the route for a wheel chair user to travel along to reach building’s main entrance and accessibility features from nearby public foot path. An example of the accessibility route plan is shown below:

**IN PRINCIPLE APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION**

Within 14 working days after receiving all the proper documents, BCA will inform the applicant on the accessibility features granted in-principle approval for funding. Applicant should commence the construction works of the accessibility features after obtaining the in-principal approval letter. BCA reserves the right to recover administrative charges from the applicant who has obtained in-principle approval and has not completed the construction work within 6 months from the proposed completion date.

**FUND DISBURSEMENT**

After completion of the works, the applicant shall notify BCA for auditing the accessibility features constructed. Applicants should submit copies of all relevant tax invoices, regulatory approvals obtained, and digital photographs of the completed works to BCA for processing the fund disbursement. The final amount of disbursement shall be at the discretion of BCA.

Buildings upgraded with the Accessibility Fund will be showcased on “Our Friendly Built Environment” Portal ([www.friendlybuildings.sg](http://www.friendlybuildings.sg)) which is set up to create public awareness for a friendly built environment and to acknowledge the efforts put in by building owners in making their buildings friendly and accessible.
ACCESSIBLE APPROACH TO BUILDING

Accessible approach to a building refers to the way by which a wheelchair user can enter the building from its road sidewalk / alighting / boarding area. Any building undergoing barrier-free upgrading works shall have at least one accessible approach. Ramps and lifts facilitate for accessible approach.

RAMPS

Where there is a change in level, along the approach to building or within first storey circulation space, ramps conforming to the requirements of the prevailing Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment (herein after referred to as “The Code”) shall be built for persons with limited mobility for accessing the building.
REQUIREMENTS FOR RAMP

A) CHANGE IN LEVEL

(i) Any change in level of the floor surface, the gradient of the slope shall conform to the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Vertical Rise (mm)</th>
<th>Gradient not steeper than</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 15</td>
<td>1 : 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 15 to 50</td>
<td>1 : 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 50 to 200</td>
<td>1 : 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 200</td>
<td>1 : 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) Where the change in vertical rise is more than 15mm to 200mm;
- The ramp and landings shall be of contrasting colour; or
- a coloured band shall be painted or marked across the top and bottom levels of the ramp or slope as shown in the figure so that the ramp or slope can clearly be seen and identified.
- Where the rise is more than 200 mm, detectable warning surface at the top and bottom levels of the ramp or slope is also to be provided as shown in the figure. The detectable warning surface shall be set back 300 mm from the edge of ramp.

B) RAMP HANDRAILS:

A ramp run with a rise greater than 175 mm shall have hand rails that:
(i) are on both sides;
(ii) comply with handrails/grab bars requirements; and
(iii) are placed at a height of between 800 mm and 900 mm above the floor level.
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Where the provision of ramp is not possible due to site constraints, mechanical means or assistive technologies such as passenger lift, platform lift and wheelchair stair-lift can be considered as alternative means for vertical circulation

SIGNAGE

International Symbol of Access for Persons with Disabilities Signage which is clear and easy to understand shall be installed permanently to inform and direct users to the accessibility features provided in building. The colour of the symbolised figure shall be white on a blue background, with the figure facing right.

A) SIZE OF SYMBOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viewing Distance (m)</th>
<th>Size (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 7.0</td>
<td>60 x 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0 to 18.0</td>
<td>100 x 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 18.0</td>
<td>200 x 200 to 450 x 450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B) HEIGHT OF LETTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Viewing Distance (m)</th>
<th>Minimum Height of Letters (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants shall also comply with other relevant requirements for signage stipulated in “the code”.
INDIVIDUAL WASHROOM FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

Individual Washroom for wheelchair users are usually provided outside toilet clusters of the buildings and shall have clear internal dimensions of not less than 1750 mm x 1750 mm. All sanitary provisions of the washroom should be installed at the required positions for wheelchair user’s reach. Swing door of the wash room shall be opened outwards to aid emergency rescue operations. Sliding or folding doors could also be used for those Accessible Toilets wherein swing doors could not be installed due to space constraints.

ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

Accessible toilets are essential facilities for buildings. The Accessibility Fund supports for upgrading eligible buildings with the following types of accessible toilets according to the availability of space in the building:
WATER CLOSET COMPARTMENT FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

Water closet compartment for wheelchair user is usually provided in toilet cluster of a building and it shall have clear internal dimensions of not less than 1750mm x 1500mm. The toilet cluster should have a low-level wash basin for wheelchair users. Accessibility Fund would support for constructing one water closet compartment in each male and female toilet cluster of an eligible building.
FAMILY FRIENDLY FEATURES

A building’s family friendly features such as diaper changing stations, lactation rooms and child-friendly sanitary facilities are beneficial for families with infants and toddlers. Accessibility Fund also supports for upgrading eligible buildings with family friendly features. Building owners applying fund for Basic Accessibility Features only qualify for incentives of family friendly features. Funding would provide incentives up to 40% of the construction cost of family friendly features cited below.

DIAPER-CHANGING STATIONS

Accessibility Fund is available for installing diaper-changing stations in eligible building’s male and female toilets, family washroom or accessible individual washrooms so that both fathers and mothers can use the facility. Diaper changing station must be stable with safety straps and side barriers to protect infant falling from it. The diaper-changing station should be provided with clear instructions to facilitate safe use. Applicants shall comply with the requirements for diaper-changing station stipulated in “the Code”.

REDUCED-SIZE WATER CLOSET COMPARTMENT

Owners may consider constructing smaller water closet compartment of size 1300mm by 1750mm for those buildings erected before the implementation of Code on Barrier–Free Accessibility in Buildings-1990 and wherein normal accessible toilets could not be constructed due to space constraints. The reduced-size Water Closet Compartment shall have the required accessibility provisions. Following diagram shows recommended dimensions for a reduced-size water closet compartment.
LACTATION ROOM

Accessibility Fund is available for the construction of a lactation room in eligible buildings. It should be easily accessible along an access route and should have facilities enabling a mother to breast feed or bottle feed her baby in a private and comfortable environment. The room should be safe, well ventilated and well illuminated. Applicants shall comply with the requirements for lactation room stipulated in “the Code”. A lactation room should be equipped with the following:

(a) comfortable seating for mother;
(b) a movable side-table;
(c) diaper changing station;
(d) waste container for disposing used diapers;
(e) wash basin with liquid detergent and paper towels;
(f) dispenser for hot and cold water;
(g) vending machine for beverage and diaper;
(h) power sockets for breast pumps; and
(i) safety mirror.

CHILD-FRIENDLY SANITARY FACILITIES

Accessibility Fund is also available for the installation of children’s water closet, washbasin and urinals in eligible buildings. Following diagrams shows the recommended measurements for these child-friendly sanitary facilities:
WATER CLOSET COMPARTMENT FOR AMBULANT DISABLED

Accessibility fund is also available for upgrading eligible buildings with a water closet compartment for ambulant disabled. Applicants shall comply with the requirements of water closet compartment for ambulant disabled stipulated in “the Code”.

FAMILY WASH ROOM

Accessibility fund is also available for the construction of a family washroom in eligible buildings. Applicants should follow the requirements for family washroom recommended in “the Code”.

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ACCESSIBILITY FUND FOR A FRIENDLY BUILT ENVIRONMENT