

Affordable Warmth Small Grants

Introduction

Funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (Household Support Fund) is being made available via Hull City Council. This is being administered on their behalf by Forum CIO (an organisation that facilitates the voluntary and community sector in Yorkshire and the Humber). This takes the form of small short-term grant funding.

Grants of between £1,000 - £7,500 are offered to voluntary and community organisations supporting local communities in the city of Hull:

NB: The maximum grant you can apply for depends on the type of project you will run (see table in detailed guidance below).

The purpose of the grants is to enable VCSE organisations to provide support to Hull residents to manage their household expenditure on energy, and cope with the cost of living. VCSE organisations are encouraged to provide Warm Spaces out of hours (evenings and weekends).

We would encourage engagement with organisations and initiatives that deliver free, impartial energy advice, home visits & telephone consultations, to help households save energy in the home, reduce bills and access other services. This may include hosting advisors to deliver advice.

Current services that provide advice as outlined above include Hull City Council Warm Homes team and the Hull City Council Money Matters service, as well as the Green Doctor Hull service.

Grants must be entirely spent by 31 March 2025.

Who can apply?

Voluntary and community organisations working directly with local people in Hull may apply. This includes:

- Registered charities and excepted charities.
- Small groups with a committee and a constitution and their own bank account in the group's name (e.g. resident/tenants' groups, self-help groups, small unincorporated charities not required to register).
- Churches, Mosques, temples and other religious establishments may apply for funding to provide practical support to congregations/communities.
- Not for profit (limited by guarantee) companies (including Community Interest Companies that are limited by guarantee).

Organisations working in partnership are strongly encouraged to apply. This would not prevent each partner from making their own application (although each organisation may only apply once in their own right). Each partner organisation

working on provision of a Warm Space will be required to sign up to the Warm Spaces Hull Charter. Note that this includes use of venues belonging to others.

For example, organisation A may wish to run a Warm Space and activity in its own venue for certain hours. Organisation B might lack a suitable venue, but could propose to work with organisation A (with their agreement) to deliver their project and claim the energy costs and pass these to organisation A, but use the remainder of the grant for their own activities.

Both organisation and organisation B must sign the Warm Spaces Charter. Organisation A may apply once in its own right, and may also be eligible again in its supporting role to organisation B.

Who may not apply?

- Individuals
- Statutory bodies
- Commercial/for profit entities (including small businesses and sole-traders)
- Community Interest Companies limited by shares

If in doubt about your organisation's eligibility to apply, please contact Gail Baines at Forum on Gail@forumcio.org.uk

What can the grants be used for?

Applications for resources and equipment to enable provision of any or all of the following will be considered:

- Providing suitable spaces that are welcoming where Hull residents can keep warm in a safe environment, for example heating costs and caretaking costs, basic refreshment such as hot drinks.
- Promoting wellbeing, especially where the proposal encourages productive use of Warm Spaces, encouraging people to use the Warm Spaces offered without feeling stigma and offering an enjoyable and/or constructive use of their time there (i.e. offering activities in the Warm Space)
- Distribution/installation of targeted support appropriate to that need in respect of winter warmth, for example blankets, warm clothing, radiator reflectors, draught excluders, energy-saving lightbulbs. (Note: if this is part of your proposal, please clearly identify the items and the volumes anticipated and how much you have budgeted for this.)
- Food provision where this relates to energy-saving: for example, batch-cooking healthy 'ready meals' for distribution to service users so that they save home energy by only needing to reheat in a microwave, provision of free/subsidised hot meals in winter to encourage use of Warm Spaces, sourcing culturally appropriate foods to attract people to special events where advice services will be on offer.

Eligible Costs

The grants may be used to cover the costs of provision of this support, including for example:

- Salary costs related to the project.
- Volunteer expenses related to the project.
- Travel costs related to the project.
- Items of equipment needed to deliver the project, e.g. computers/tablets to introduce people to services they may need such as applying for benefits and discounts or switching energy suppliers, catering equipment to facilitate production of hot meals.
- Resources and consumables for activities – e.g. craft supplies, recipe ingredients
- Items for distribution to aid in keeping people warm e.g. blankets, slow cookers, air fryers, warm clothing.
- Refreshments provided at activities, including hot beverages.
- Costs of marketing and communication activities to promote key messages.
- Contribution to the additional costs of overheads, insurance, licencing, utilities etc required for the provision of this support.

Ineligible Costs

- General organisational costs.
- Direct financial support to households and individuals.
- Activities supporting residents outside the city of Hull.
- Work that is commissioned elsewhere such as social prescribing.

How much can each organisation apply for?

The maximum amount you can apply for depends on what will be included in your project. See the table below:

Projects offering a Warm Space	
Projects that will be open weekdays only	Apply for up to £5,500
Projects that will offer at least 30 hrs including weekend delivery	In addition: £1,000
Projects that will offer at least 30 hrs including evening delivery (after 5pm)	In addition: £1,000
Maximum grant	£7,500

Note that it is possible to have an affordable warmth project that does not offer a Warm Space. For example, your organisation's project might be to deliver

heated throws to residents who are housebound. Such **projects, that have no Warm Space opening hours, can apply for a maximum of £3,500.**

Please note allowable energy costs that you can include in your budget are capped within the maximum grant you can apply for:

- a Warm Space open to the public for up to 30 hours over the life of the project may include a maximum of £1,000 in their budget towards energy costs.
- a Warm Space open to the public for over 30 hours over the life of the project but less than 60 may include a maximum of £2,000 in their budget.
- a Warm Space open to the public for 60 hours or more over the life of the project may include a maximum of £3,000 in their budget.

The most you can request in energy costs is £3,000. Your other costs detailed in your budget might be for volunteer expenses, resources for activities, hot drinks and light snacks, items to give out to participants to help them with affordable warmth outside of the Warm Space sessions, publicity for your Warm Space, etc.

How the panel will decide

In making its decisions, the panel will consider whether the proposal:

- Has a positive longer-term impact beyond the funding end (end of March 2025)
- Improves health and wellbeing, including improving mental health
- Targets a locally appropriate identified need specifically identified by the local community (e.g. more cultural opportunities suitable for people with a particular type of shared background who live locally).
- Contributes to a fair distribution of funding around the city.

Please also note the panel will, as part of their decision making, consider as part of their scoring for applications:

- Award a higher score for those organisations who will be offering 30+ hours overall as part of their applications.
- Award a higher score for offering hours that that compliment as opposed to compete with other offers – which could mean opening weekends or evenings, or consulting with other organisations locally to propose a schedule.
- Award a higher score for those applications engaging with existing services providing energy advice to residents or hosting advice sessions from qualified advisors for above 5 hours. You should include agreed activity and explain how this will be carried out. e.g. you've negotiated with Warm Homes/Green Doctors/Citizens Advice and secured their agreement to attend if you are successful or you've formally trained your own advisors such as in Money Matters, Hotspots, or National Energy Action courses.

Successful Projects

Grant Agreements

Grants will be paid on receipt of a signed grant agreement and claim form which will be issued to successful applicants.

Marketing and promotion

Successful projects will be required to engage with promotional activities with any or all of the funding organisations.

Note that promotional materials for successful projects should reference the fact that the funding comes from the Department of Work and Pensions, which is the source of Household Support Fund monies, Hull City Council and Ideal Heating. Approved logos for funders can be provided.

Monitoring and reporting

All funded projects will be required to comply with monitoring and reporting arrangements which will include submission of a project report with numbers of households participating over the lifetime of the project (broken down to reflect whether the household had any children / pensioners / disabled people or other) and including at least one anonymised case study of at least 150 words in early April 2025, as well as liaising with the Forum CIO to discuss progress as required.

For clarity, you are required to count households benefitting as follows.

Contains Children	Contains Disabled People	Contains Pensioners	Other (Any household not fitting in the previous three categories – e.g. working age childless couple, homeless person)	TOTAL

Count each household only once, even if they benefit many times over the life of the project. Count the household not the individuals in it, so if a household has five people still only count one. Put the household only once even if they fall into more than one category – for example if a household has a disabled child, choose to count them in either disabled or with children, but not both.

Warm Spaces

Projects that rely on taking place in 'Warm Spaces' throughout the colder months will be required to sign up to the Warm Spaces Hull charter. **See Appendix 1.** However, funding towards the energy costs of a Warm Space is limited, with the absolute maximum towards energy costs being £3,000 (see detailed limits within this document).

Energy Efficiency Advice

Projects should engage with energy & finance advice provision and support such as the Warm Homes Team, Money Matters, Citizens Advice Hull & East Riding and Green Doctor Hull to ensure that households have access to energy efficiency and financial advice, as set out in the section above on “how the panel will decide”.

Appendix 1

Warm Spaces – Hull Charter – Summary

As a Warm Space venue, you are required to sign the Warm Spaces Charter. In signing the Charter, you commit to providing a safe, heated, welcoming and safe venue for our residents.

Your commitment to residents are:

You'll get a warm welcome as well as a Warm Space. Every time you come to a Warm Space; you'll be given a warm welcome.

Everyone is treated equally. Everyone has a right to be warm, so everyone in a Warm Space treats people, and is treated by people, with dignity and respect.

It doesn't matter why you need a Warm Space. A Warm Space is a non-judgemental space, so whatever the reason you have for coming in, you will never be judged.

We'll not tell anyone about you needing a Warm Space. If you want to share the reasons you need a Warm Space, someone will listen, but they won't tell anyone else unless you give them permission, or they must because of their safeguarding policies.

Your Warm Space will be a safe place. Your Warm Space will stick to the safeguarding policies that it always uses.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted to linda@forumcio.org.uk no later than **9am 9th December 2024**.

For further information or assistance to apply, contact:

Linda Conway, Forum, 07543 501264



Affordable Warmth Community Grants are administered and managed by Forum on behalf of Hull City Council. Forum CIO is a registered charity no. 1107013