

Warm Spaces Additional Guidance 2026-27

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the main Community Grants Scheme guidance.

We will prioritise Warm Space applications in the second and third grant rounds of the year to support voluntary and community sector organisations that are setting up or hosting Warm Spaces to support residents from Blaby District. A Warm Space is somewhere in the community that offers a warm, safe and welcoming place where people who are struggling to heat their own homes can gather for free. Venues could include places such as libraries, church halls, community centres or sports clubs and should be open to all in need and might provide hot drinks, snacks/refreshments or activities to promote wellbeing and companionship. This could be something set up specifically to help people this winter or to widen an existing service that you offer.

What funding is available for Warm Spaces?

Applications for costs relating to running a warm space should be made as a Revenue Grant up to £500 through the normal community grants scheme. This is not an exhaustive list, but the grant might cover costs such as:

- Purchase of food/drink supplies so these can be provided free of charge to service users
- Purchase of small items of kitchen equipment
- Contribution towards energy bills, such as **additional** heating/lighting costs
- Additional insurance cover if needed to run a Warm Space
- Purchase of blankets/soft furnishings to provide a suitable space
- Marketing or promotion activities to raise awareness of your Warm Space
- Volunteer expenses to help facilitate the extra hours provided by your organisation to run the Warm Space
- Training for volunteers/staff (for example Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate if needed)

The grant must be spent by the end of April 2027.

Eligibility Criteria

- All organisations eligible for the main community grants scheme can apply
- Organisations can apply that have an existing, open grant with us for another project, if the new application relates solely to the running of a warm space
- If an organisation is awarded a grant to run a Warm Space, this does not prevent the organisation from making a further application to the main grants scheme for a different project during the same financial year as long as they meet the frequency criteria outlined in the main guidance notes

Please note that you are not automatically guaranteed funding for your Warm Space. You should still complete the application fully, making sure that you explain how the Warm Space will operate, what the local need is, the expected outcomes, and a clear breakdown of what the grant will be spent on.

How to Apply

Applications should be made through the main community grant scheme during the **second and third grant rounds only**. The deadline for applications to these rounds are:

- Friday 25 September 2026 at 5pm
- Friday 4 December 2026 at 5pm

Applications can be made online, via email or by post in the usual way. Please refer to the main guidance notes for full details on how to apply.

If you have any questions about these additional criteria, contact grants@blaby.gov.uk or call 0116 272 7566.

Guidance if you are planning to serve food at your Warm Space:

Please read the following brief guidance from the Environmental Health team at Blaby District Council carefully.

Food Hygiene and Safety

- If your organisation is only serving drinks and for example, reheating tinned soup, providing biscuits and/or pre-made cakes (direct from a packet) then no formal food hygiene training is necessary.
- If you are serving any food that involves some preparation, such as making sandwiches, jacket potatoes and fillings or homemade soup, we advise that at least one person on shift has a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate. This individual would then be able to supervise and instruct others on how to handle food safely. You can find details of training providers online.
- If your organisation is serving food that needs any kind of preparation, you are required to complete a written food safety hazard analysis. You will need appropriate documentation depending on the complexity of your food provision. Advice and guidance are available from the Food Standards Agency at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/> or Blaby District Council Environmental Health Team. Once your documentation is complete, you must be able to demonstrate that each volunteer has received some basic training and read and understood what their responsibilities are.
- You must clearly signpost your customers to ensure that they inform you if they have any allergies or intolerances. You must have a sign in place at the point of sale (either on a menu or separate sign) to remind customers to ask if they have any allergies or intolerances. Further advice is available at the Food Standards Agency at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/> Volunteers must be able to give accurate answers regarding food ingredients.

Registering as a Food Business

- If you are serving any food that involves some preparation as detailed above, you must also register as a Food Business. You can do this online at [Register a Food Business \(HM Government\)](#)
- You do not need to register as a Food Business if you are only serving drinks and food that requires no preparation (such as packet biscuits/cakes)

If you require any further advice on these matters, please contact our Environmental Health team at environmental.health@blaby.gov.uk or by calling 0116 275 0555 or visit their webpages at [Food Business – Blaby District Council](#)