

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CRISIS AND RESILIENCE COMMUNITY GRANT FUND 2026-27

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is provided by the UK Government and runs from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

In Warwickshire the CRF includes a £500,000 community grant programme in 2026/27. This grant scheme is open to local voluntary and community sector groups who support Warwickshire residents to become more financially resilient and less likely to need ongoing financial crisis support.

Financial resilience refers to the ability of individuals to withstand and recover from financial shocks – such as sudden income loss or unexpected expenses.

For more information on the CRF visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/crisisresiliencefund

Criteria for grant applications

Voluntary and community sector groups in Warwickshire are invited to make an application to the CRF grant fund. Applications to this fund must demonstrate how they contribute to one or more of these criteria:

Category 1: Reduced experiences of material deprivation

Material deprivation is defined as the lack of items deemed to be necessary for a minimum acceptable standard of living and captures inability to afford essentials (heating, adequate clothing, basic household goods and food). This could include a wide range of services that result in reduced experiences of material deprivation. This may include, but is not limited to, being able to pay bills without having to cut back on essentials, having three meals a day and fresh fruit or vegetables every day, having a home that is adequately warm in winter and having reliable access to internet at home.

Further information on the indicators of material deprivation can be found [here](#).

Category 2: Reduced need for emergency food parcels

Services that result in individuals having greater food security. An inability to afford adequate food is a subset of material deprivation and so may include similar activities to those for reduced experiences of material deprivation but may also include more targeted food-specific services, such as community supermarkets, cooking courses, community growing projects or referral pathways from emergency food support into longer term help.

Category 3: Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services Facilitate access to high quality, free-at-the-point-of-use advice provision. This could include, but is not limited to, advice on areas such as debt, welfare, housing, energy or insulation.
Category 4: Increased savings Services that result in individuals having increased levels of savings. This could include services such as saving clubs and advice services.
Category 5: Reduction in priority debt Services that support debt reduction.
Category 6: Maximisation of individuals' incomes Activities that increase individuals' income, such as benefit checks or employment advice.
Category 7: Decreased need for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments Services that prevent need for crisis support from the Fund.

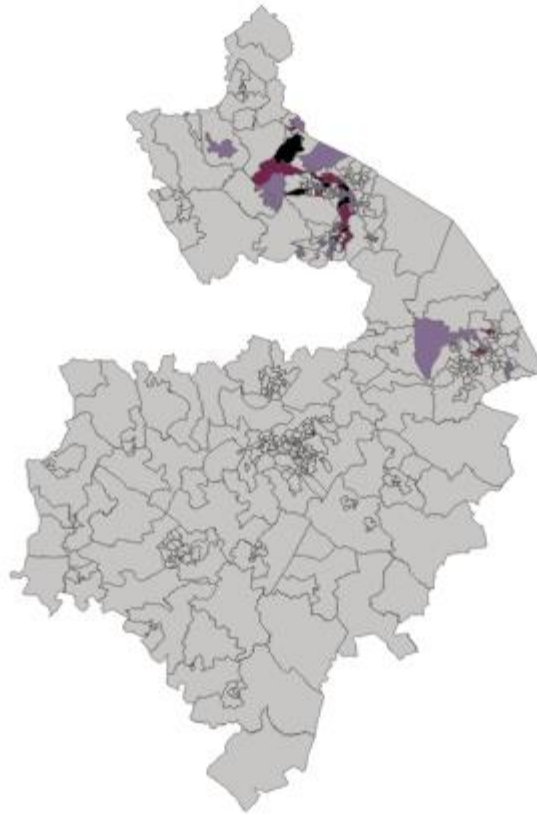
Criteria for grant applications continued

This funding is designed for grassroots organisations and specialist providers working with priority populations more likely to be experiencing or most at risk of financial hardship.

While the funding is available countywide, there are areas of Warwickshire which experience a higher level of poverty and deprivation, which applicants may wish to consider.

Map showing selected deciles

Decile ● 1 ● 2 ● 3



[Open in Power BI](#)

Understanding Deprivation

Data as of 22/07/26, 11:32

Filtered by **Warwickshire Place** (is Warwickshire North, Warwickshire South, or Rugby), **Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Decile (where 1 is most deprived 10% of LSOA (is 1, 2, or 3))**

Greatest consideration will be given to those organisations who:

- Clearly define the target group priority populations
- Demonstrate unmet need
- Show how the work helps people to move from crisis to resilience
- Align with wider local support systems

Funding examples

Examples of project ideas likely to meet the criteria	Examples of project ideas unlikely to meet the criteria
Money management and budgeting support	Ongoing purchase of food for foodbanks, pantries, larders etc.
Affordable credit and savings schemes	Unrestricted cash payments to residents outside agreed CRF processes and eligibility arrangements
Teaching skills such as cooking on a budget or digital skills	Activities not related to building financial resilience
Providing warm spaces with access to information about local support offers	Core organisational costs not linked to this fund's priorities
Schemes to transition people away from repeated food bank use	Provision that duplicates an existing service without clear evidence of additional capacity, access, reach or impact
Outreach targeting vulnerable groups at higher risk of financial difficulties	Projects that cannot demonstrate need, reach, outcomes, value for money or appropriate governance

Application and decision timescales

Fund open:	Tuesday 1 September
Applications are made online at:	Crisis and Resilience Fund (any additional information to support your application can be submitted by emailing funding@warwickshire.gov.uk)
Deadline for applications:	Sunday 4 October 2026
Successful awards paid:	October/November 2026
Projects completed by:	31 March 2027 (all funds must be committed or allocated by this date)
Maximum grant size:	Unrestricted (please apply for the appropriate amount your organisation has the capacity and resources to effectively allocate before 31 March 2027)
Grant Monitoring form submission:	15 April 2027

Who can apply?

✓	Constituted 'not-for-profit' community organisations in Warwickshire
✓	Non-constituted or new 'not-for-profit' groups working in Warwickshire that can be supported by a mainstream service or community group willing to administer the funds through an organisational bank account
✓	Warwickshire Town and Parish Councils
✓	Schools, if applying as a PTA or 'Friends of' group

Who cannot apply?

x	Groups or organisations that have failed to meet the conditions of previous award agreements from Warwickshire County Council
x	Party Political/lobby groups
x	Individuals
x	It is unlikely that applications from statutory organisations will be supported, except for applications from town and parish councils.

What will not be funded by the grant fund?

x	Projects that promote religious or party-political beliefs
x	Projects for personal profit or personal gain
x	Costs relating to items purchased or work already carried out before the grant has been awarded
x	Loans or debt repayments
x	Activities that are part of statutory obligations
x	Existing contractual arrangements with WCC

Application process

- Applicants are welcome to discuss their project idea with the local Community Partnerships Team (contact details below). For help with completing your application form, applicants are encouraged to speak to their local Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA), Funding and Group Development Officers. Details can be found on their webpage www.wcava.org.uk
- The online application cannot be saved, therefore we suggest writing your application in advance using the application form questions document on the webpage and copying and pasting into the online form. You will receive an automatic on-screen message acknowledging your application submission. Please note that you will not receive any email copies of your application. If you do not receive an on-screen confirmation of your submission, please contact funding@warwickshire.gov.uk.
- All applicants must tick to confirm that they have read the Subsidy Control Declaration and declare any subsidy/state aid (grant or financial assistance) that they, or their organisation, may or may NOT have received in the previous 3 fiscal years exceeding £315,000.
- We will endeavour to inform all applicants of the outcome of their application within 6 weeks of the deadline date. Successful applicants will be duly notified of arrangements for receipt of funding. The Council may ask for copies of governing documents and policies, procedures, and criteria relevant to the project/grant awarded.

Assessment of applications

Applications would need to demonstrate clear alignment with one or more CRF outcomes, and will be scored against the following:

Priorities for assessment	How evidence will be gathered	Points to be allocated
Value for money - the application should include a proportionate budget breakdown; project is deliverable within the financial year 2026-27.	Q18-22 – Details of the funding requested	3 points
Evidence that the project meets one or more of the priority outcome categories for the fund: • Reduced experiences of material deprivation • Reduced need for emergency food parcels • Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services	Q15 – project description; Q36-42 Please estimate how much of your award will be spent/committed in each of these categories. The total should equal the amount requested from this fund; Q43-49 - How many people will the funding support?	3 points

• Increased savings • Reduction in priority debt • Maximisation of individuals' incomes • Decreased need for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments	Please estimate the number of people to be helped in each of these categories.	
System integration - provision should not duplicate existing service without clear evidence of additional capacity, access, reach or impact; how your service delivery will work in partnership with existing organisations and where appropriate evidence can be provided of warm referrals and joined up pathways.	Q30 - How will you identify and target those most at risk of financial difficulty who are not already engaged with support services? (for example, using data, partnerships with other groups or organisations, local insight)	3 points
Reduction in demand – projects need to demonstrate how they will aim to support residents to move from immediate hardship towards greater independence and resilience.	Q50 - What evidence will your project generate to demonstrate reduced future demand on crisis support services?	3 points

All projects must also follow national legislation, guidance and good practice in relation to equality and diversity; health and safety; and safeguarding.

Final funding decisions will be made based on combined scores, available budget, and the overall balance of provision across the county.

Monitoring of projects

To satisfy the requirements of Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), organisations receiving a grant will need to have procedures in place to collect and produce information in relation to household composition and the category of support that is given. Failure to provide such information will make you ineligible for future CRF grant funding.

You will be asked for the following information on the Grant Monitoring form, capturing the impact of your project from start to 31 March 2027.

You will also be encouraged to integrate into future community coordination networks to bring together partners working in financial inclusion and adopt any future reporting tools which become available as part of the CRF. By submitting your application to us you agree to us sharing details about your project with relevant partners for the purpose of signposting clients in need of support and connecting organisations with each other.

The Grant Monitoring Form questions, to be completed before 15 April 2027, are included as a document on the Crisis & Resilience Fund grant webpage, and a link to the online form will be issued with your grant paperwork.

Community Partnerships Team – contact information

Area	Contact	Email / phone
North Warwickshire	Jennifer McCabe	jennifermccabe@warwickshire.gov.uk 07887 650641
Nuneaton and Bedworth	Mike Slemensek	mikeslemensek@warwickshire.gov.uk 07557 814937
Rugby	Jennifer McCabe	jennifermccabe@warwickshire.gov.uk 07887 650641
Stratford	Dominika Stockham	dominikastockham@warwickshire.gov.uk 07825856808
Warwick	Dominika Stockham	dominikastockham@warwickshire.gov.uk 07825856808

If you require this information in a different format, please contact us by email on crisisfund@warwickshire.gov.uk

Help and support

WCAVA provides general advice and support to Third Sector organisations across Warwickshire including accessing volunteering opportunities, developing a community group, accessing funding or strengthening governance arrangements.

Visit their website for more information: www.wcava.org.uk

Full details of the DWP guidance on the Crisis and Resilience Fund can be found at [Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England \(1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029\) - GOV.UK](#)