

Warm Welcome Spaces Micro Grants Scheme

Guidance

Introduction

3VA, with the support of Wealden District Council, are offering a number of micro grants to projects offering support to local people affected by the cost of living crisis. This includes groups offering Warm Welcome projects but may also include projects aiming to reduce isolation or working with people who face additional costs in their lives – for example people with disabilities. This note explains who is eligible to apply and what we are looking for.

Eligibility - applicants

Any Wealden based community organisation which offers

- a warm welcome type project
- support in other ways to people impacted by the cost of living

We welcome applications from registered charities, not for profit groups such as CICs, unincorporated voluntary organisations, projects run by churches and parish councils.

All applicants must supply the details of a community/business bank account (ie not a personal bank account) which has at least two unrelated signatories.

Eligibility – projects and activities

We take an inclusive view of eligible projects but we are particularly interested in supporting activities which mitigate the impact of the cost of living whilst also bringing people together. Where groups are offering some kind of a “warm welcome space” we would be looking for these characteristics

- Takes place in an accessible, community space – for example church hall, village hall or other community building
- May be targeted – for example – on older people or families – but is open to all in the area it serves in that group or is otherwise open to all (no memberships required etc).
- Is intended to mitigate the impact of the cost of living in some way – often through providing a place to be and free or very affordable meals – as well as mitigating social isolation or potentially other social issues.
- Takes place regularly

Where the project has some other focus, we would be looking for (

- Accessible without statutory referral

- Open to all within its scope (ie no membership requirement, no “assessment”)
- Offering some element of community cohesion

In all cases, the project must primarily serve Wealden residents.

What we can fund

The grants are intended to support projects by allowing the purchase of some “extra” which would not otherwise have been possible.

For example, a piece of equipment eg an efficient urn, a toastie maker, a set of games, a projector. Or the grant might fund an additional or pilot activity. For example, bringing in an artist, offering a cookery class, running a series of budgeting workshops. Or some element of organisational development – eg volunteer training. We are looking for project ideas which are self contained and which will not require ongoing funding to make them sustainable or viable.

Size of grants

Applications must be for a specific and defined purpose and for costs between £50 and £250. We do not require any match funding.

Application process

Applications should be made on the form provided and submitted by the first deadline of 30 November. If funds allow, we will run a second round of applications but there is no guarantee of this.

Questions

Any questions should be addressed to Melanie Nock, Communities development worker for Wealden at melanie.nock@3va.org.uk – who is very happy to discuss potential applications.

Melanie Nock

Melanie.nock@3va.org.uk

June 2025.