



Community fridge set up fund

Funding criteria

**COMMUNITY
FRIDGE**
Network



Registered charity no. 1158700

Community fridge Set up funding

This guidance document provides a short overview of the new funding being made available to community groups across the UK to develop a new community fridge.

This opportunity has been developed in partnership with Co-op.

Read on to find out:

- Why we're making this funding available
- What the funding can be used for
- What support and guidance is available
- And... how to apply!

***Please note, this guidance provides an overview of the funding, but further, more detailed information is available (see final page for more info).*



co
op

Continuing our mission to reduce food waste

Our Commitment to Supporting Communities

Since March 2021, in partnership with Co-op, we have funded 350 community groups across the UK to set up their community fridges. It's been a fantastic way to support local communities, reduce food waste, and create a culture of sharing and sustainability right at the heart of communities.

Continuing Our Partnership

We're excited to continue working with Co-op, offering more funding to keep this momentum going. Together, we're aiming to fund 65 more community fridges, each one playing a part in reducing food waste and fostering stronger, more resilient communities.

Current Progress

So far, we've funded 25 of these fridges, and we're now looking to support another 20 groups to get their community fridges up and running, helping more people share surplus food and reduce waste in their local areas.



Who can apply?

To be eligible for this funding your group must be based in the UK, with a UK based Community Fridge which is officially open to the public **and** registered as a member of the Community Fridge Network. In addition, we can only accept applications if your group meets one of the following organisational types:

- A Constituted Community Group with a charitable purpose and at least 3 unrelated people aged over 18 on the management committee
- A registered Charity
- A Social Enterprise
- A Community Interest Company with two or more directors

Groups who **cannot** apply:

- Individuals or Sole traders
- Groups based outside the UK
- Anyone applying on behalf of another group
- Groups without at least 2 related* people on the board or committee
- Companies aimed at generating profits for private distribution.

*Related means any family member whether a blood relative, by marriage, civil partnership or by common law. Directors, trustees or management committee members can be related but they must not form the majority on the board or committee.



What to consider before you apply

Here's some key things you'll need to have in place:

- **Prioritise food safety:** Food safety is non-negotiable. Before we can release any funds, you must provide proof of a **Level II Food Safety Certificate** and either a **food hygiene rating** or evidence that you've **registered as a food business**. This step is essential to keep everything safe and up to standard.
- **Get to know the basics:** We only want to fund groups who have their ducks in a row and understand what's involved in setting up a community fridge. Make sure you've thoroughly read our [Community Fridge Network \(CFN\) guidance](#) document—you'll need to show that you're well-prepared in your application.
- **Check for available surplus food:** A community fridge can't exist without surplus food, and that's a good thing—it means food that would otherwise go to waste is being saved. Before applying, make sure there's enough surplus food in your community to support a fridge. This involves reaching out to local retailers, supermarkets, and other food businesses to confirm there's a steady supply available. Also, consider whether your community actually want a fridge and if there's already an initiative in place. We're here to fill gaps, not to create competition.
- **Secure your space:** You'll need a venue that's both accessible and has the necessary



What is the funding for?

The funding must go towards the development of a new Community fridge which meets the needs of a diverse local community and the Set-Up costs for the first year of operating. This includes:

Staffing costs

Paying for staff time to cover the set up and running of the fridge

- **Training:** Ensuring staff and volunteers are trained in food safety.
- **Coordination:** Managing schedules, volunteers, and donor relations.
- **Community Engagement:** Promoting the fridge and building local partnerships.
- **Record Keeping:** Tracking donations, inventory, and compliance.

Equipment

Purchasing fridges, freezers or other equipment

- **Food storage:** Fridges, freezers, and shelving.
- **Transportation:** Costs for moving food donations.
- **Safety gear:** Thermometers, locks, and security measures.
- **Waste management:** Compost and recycling bins.

Running costs

Covering the costs associated with running the fridge

- **Utilities:** Electricity and water for operations.
- **Insurance:** Liability and equipment coverage.
- **Maintenance:** Regular upkeep of equipment.
- **Supplies:** Cleaning and operational supplies.

Outline of the application process

Timeline

Timings	Detail
September	Applications are open! • September 2nd from 9am you'll be able to access our online application form • To access the form please check back to the application web page: HERE
October	Applications are closed • We'll be closing the window for applications at midnight on October 16th • Groups will be notified of their outcome by October 31st • Successful groups will be required to return grant completion paperwork shortly after
November	• Upon return of all follow up paperwork* the successful groups will receive a payment of £4,500 • Welcome letters and instructions on 'what's next?' will be shared
	• Groups will have 12 months from receiving their funds to develop and launch their Community fridge • Hubbub will provide support throughout, along with training, optional workshops and networking

*Groups will be required to provide organisational bank details, certified by a bank statement. This can also be a cheque or paying in slip. Governance/ constitutional documents will be required, along with a completed due diligence form with the details and signatures of trustees/ directors or finance leads within the organisation.

What we're looking for

Due to high demand, we can't fund every application we receive, but we prioritise those that:

- **Expand access in underserved regions.** Is your area lacking a Community fridge? Check our Community Fridge Map to see if your application could fill a gap: <https://www.communityfridgemap.org.uk>
- **Support communities in need.** We're keen to back projects in areas experiencing deprivation where a Community fridge could make a significant social and environmental difference.
- **Promote diversity and inclusion.** We are committed to funding groups who can demonstrate that they ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of background, culture, or race. Discrimination and victimisation have no place in our society, and we're dedicated to treating everyone fairly.



Ready to apply?

The online application will become available on our [funding page](#) at 9am on **September 2nd**.

Please contact us directly if you're unable to complete a digital application, or if you have any questions.

Get in touch via our [form submission](#).

Before you apply, don't forget to fully read all documents on the website funding page, this will include:

- Application form guidance
- Frequently asked questions

Thanks and good luck!

The CFN team



Thank you

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