



NI Trades

FREE HOMEOWNER GUIDE · 2026

The Warm Homes Scheme in Northern Ireland

What the Warm Homes Scheme was, what is actually open in 2026, the £150 million Warm Healthy Homes Fund timeline, and how to get help with heating and insulation this year.

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Warm Home, Affordable Warmth, Warm Healthy Homes: which is which?

Northern Ireland has run several similarly named schemes, GB news coverage adds a different Warm Homes Plan that does not apply here, and 2026 is the year the NI landscape changes again. This table is the current state of each name you may have heard.

Name you may have heard	What it is	Status (July 2026)
Warm Home Scheme (also searched as Warm Homes / Warmer Homes Scheme NI)	An older NI Housing Executive energy scheme name. The Affordable Warmth Scheme took over this role, so it is not a route you can apply to today.	Legacy name only. Do not apply under this name; the current route is Affordable Warmth via NIHE.
Affordable Warmth Scheme	The NI Housing Executive-run energy grant for low-income owner-occupiers and some private renters, funding insulation and heating measures.	Open, and still the main government route in mid-2026. Due to run until March 2028 while the Warm Healthy Homes Fund takes over. Confirm current openings with NIHE.
Warm Healthy Homes Strategy 2026-2036	The ten-year fuel poverty strategy launched in February 2026.	Live as a strategy. Its delivery scheme is the Warm Healthy Homes Fund below, which will replace Affordable Warmth.
Warm Healthy Homes Fund	The successor scheme, with around £150m planned over its first five years: whole-house, fabric-first energy upgrades for low-income households.	Not open yet. Public consultation runs to 19 August 2026; the fund is expected from April 2027.
Warm Homes Plan (GB)	A Great Britain programme you may have seen in UK news coverage.	Does not apply in Northern Ireland. NI has its own schemes, listed above.

Sources: Department for Communities, Warm Healthy Homes Strategy 2026-2036 and Warm Healthy Homes Fund pages; NI Housing Executive grants pages. A July 2026 snapshot: confirm the live position before applying.

The timeline that matters

When	What happens
February 2026	The Department for Communities launched the Warm Healthy Homes Strategy 2026-2036, the ten-year fuel poverty plan under which the Affordable Warmth Scheme will be replaced.
Now until 19 August 2026	Public consultation on the design of the Warm Healthy Homes Fund is open, including who qualifies and what gets funded. The Affordable Warmth route continues in the meantime.
From April 2027	The £150 million Warm Healthy Homes Fund is expected to open and become the main scheme for private-sector homes, with Affordable Warmth due to run until March 2028 as the changeover completes.

Source: Department for Communities, communities-ni.gov.uk (strategy launched February 2026; fund consultation open to 19 August 2026; fund expected from April 2027; Affordable Warmth due to run until March 2028). Affordable Warmth remains the live route in the meantime.

The practical upshot: do not wait for the new fund if you need help now, and do not assume an older article describing the Warm Home Scheme still applies. Check what is open today, then apply under the current

name.

What you can actually apply for in 2026

Route	Who and what it covers
The Affordable Warmth route	Still the main open government scheme for insulation and heating in low-income households while the transition happens, run by the NI Housing Executive. Start at the NIHE grants pages (nihe.gov.uk).
NISEP insulation funding	The NI Sustainable Energy Programme funds insulation measures each scheme year, with fully funded places for lower-income households, open on a first-come basis.
Everything else	Boiler funding, repairs and adaptations are covered in the NI Trades home improvement and energy grants guide at nitrades.co.uk/guides .

Sources: NI Housing Executive grants pages and [nidirect](https://nidirect.gov.uk), getting help with home improvement costs. July 2026 snapshot.

One warning while the schemes change over

Transition periods attract cold-callers claiming to be from the warm homes scheme and offering surveys or free insulation. Government schemes in NI do not sell door to door. If someone lands on your doorstep quoting a scheme name, take the details and check them against the official Department for Communities or NIHE pages before agreeing to anything.

The questions everyone asks

Is the Warm Homes Scheme still open in Northern Ireland?

Not under that name. The old NIHE Warm Home Scheme is a legacy name whose role passed to the Affordable Warmth Scheme, and Affordable Warmth is now itself being replaced under the Warm Healthy Homes Strategy, launched February 2026. In mid-2026 the NIHE-run Affordable Warmth route remains the main open government scheme, due to run until March 2028, and the new £150 million Warm Healthy Homes Fund is expected from April 2027.

What replaced the Warm Home Scheme in NI?

The Affordable Warmth Scheme took over the old Warm Home Scheme role, and Affordable Warmth is now being replaced in turn. The Warm Healthy Homes Strategy 2026-2036, launched February 2026, is the ten-year framework; its delivery vehicle is the Warm Healthy Homes Fund, with around £150 million planned over its first five years, under consultation until 19 August 2026 and expected from April 2027.

Who qualifies for the Warm Healthy Homes Fund?

The final criteria are being settled through the consultation that runs to 19 August 2026, so nobody can tell you the exact thresholds yet. The fund targets low-income households in energy-inefficient homes with a whole-house, fabric-first approach. The Affordable Warmth Scheme uses a gross household income test that excludes disability benefits like PIP and DLA, and something similar is expected.

What help can I get with heating and insulation right now, in 2026?

Check the Affordable Warmth route, which remains the main open government scheme through the transition, run by the NI Housing Executive. NISEP also funds insulation measures each year with fully funded places for lower-income households, on a first-come basis each scheme year.

Is this the same as the Warm Homes Plan in the news?

No. The Warm Homes Plan in UK-wide news coverage is a Great Britain programme and does not apply in Northern Ireland. NI runs its own schemes, now being replaced under the Warm Healthy Homes Strategy and its fund, so always check NI-specific sources such as nidirect or the NI Housing Executive.

Do I need an approved installer for warm homes funding?

Yes. Grant-funded work in NI must be carried out to the scheme standard, almost always by an approved or registered installer (OFTEC for oil heating, Gas Safe for gas, NICEIC or NAPIT for electrical work), and the work must not start until your approval is in writing. Starting early is the most common way applicants lose funding.

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