

Winter fuel grants 2017-18

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are UNISON There for You Winter Fuel Grants?

In addition to our normal range of services and in response to the growing difficulty many members on low income are experiencing paying their fuel bills, a programme has been put in place that will assist our most vulnerable members.

How much are the Grants?

They are one-off grants of up to £50 per household.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible you must be:

- A member who has paid 4 weeks subscriptions before the launch date of this programme (4/12/17)
- Have a total net annual household income of £18,000 or less. (Note: By 'net income' we mean all salary after tax, national insurance, superannuation etc, and including your partner's salary if applicable and benefits. However, do not include in your calculation Child Benefit, the childcare element only of Working Tax Credit if paid, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment)
- You are responsible for meeting the household fuel bills and are struggling financially

Is there anything else that may affect my entitlement to apply?

- Members and their partners must not have combined savings or, rolling bank balance, of more than £800. (Savings of any other adults in the household do not apply).
- You must not have received financial assistance from UNISON There for You during the previous six months (excluding School Uniform Grant)
- Applications are limited to one per household and priority is given to those who have not previously applied for the Winter fuel grant
- **Ensure you send all requested paperwork with the form or the application cannot be accepted**

How do I apply?

To apply for a Winter Fuel Grant simply:

- Print out and complete the short 1-page application form attached to this e mail
- Download from our website www.unison.org/thereforyou
- Contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857 for a form to be posted to you
- Contact your local UNISON branch for a form

Continued overleaf

Then provide us with evidence of your entire household income by sending copies of the supporting paperwork depending upon which statement is applicable to you:

EITHER

You currently receive housing benefit - then enclose all of the following paperwork*:

- Most recent payslip(s)**
- Proof that this benefit is paid
- Last month's full bank statement(s) detailing all income and outgoings

OR

Your net household income is £18,000 or less – then enclose all of the following documents:

- Most recent payslip(s)**
- Last month's full bank statement(s)** detailing all income and outgoings
- Tax credit award letter where element given towards childcare costs

Note 1: *Please **ONLY** send copies as we cannot return any paperwork

Note 2: **If you live with a partner, don't forget to include their payslip/bank statement if applicable

Note 3: If you experience difficulty obtaining any documents requested please explain why in a covering letter

Checklist – please make sure you have enclosed:

- Form
- Supporting paperwork
- Completed short survey

Post to UNISON There for You, UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY

Deadline

We must receive your application by 16 February 2018.

Applications will then be processed and decisions communicated over the following weeks.

Where can I go for further help or advice?

There is a limited amount in the Winter Fuel Grants programme and once it has been exhausted no further awards for the year can be made. However if you are facing unforeseen hardship it may be possible for you to apply to our general grants programme. We will let you know if this applies to you.

For further information:

- please see our web pages at www.unison.org/thereforyou
- contact the Welfare Officer at your local UNISON branch or the There for You Support Team on 020 7121 5620 or email thereforyou@unison.co.uk
- UNISON Debtline on 0800 389 3302 if you are struggling to meet your debt repayments.



There for you is the working name of UNISON Welfare, a registered charity supported by UNISON the trade union. Registered charity no.1023552/SCO38305