

## Winter fuel grants 2018 -19

### 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 £60 per household.

#### Am I eligible?

- You must be a UNISON member and have paid 4 weeks subscriptions before the launch date of this programme (3/12/18)
- Have a total net annual household income of £18,000 or less. (Note: By 'net income' we mean all salary including your partner's after tax, national insurance, superannuation and trade union subscriptions only. Your calculation **should include** any Tax Credits, Universal Credit or child maintenance received. **Do not include** Child Benefit, the childcare element of Working Tax Credit, 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?

- You and your partner (if applicable) must not have combined savings, or rolling bank balance, of more than £800.
- 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

#### 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
- Alternatively, download from our website [www.unison.org/thereforyou](http://www.unison.org/thereforyou); or
- Contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857 between 6am-midnight Monday-Friday and 9am-4pm Saturday for a form to be posted to you

*Continued overleaf*

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

**Please ensure you send all requested paperwork with the form or the application cannot be accepted**

### **EITHER**

You currently receive housing benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit – 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\*\*
- Partner's most recent payslip (if applicable)
- 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 – including bank statement(s)
- Completed short survey

**Post to There for You (WFG), UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY**

*If we need to contact you about your application we will usually contact you by email so you may want to check your email and junk mail folders.*

### **Deadline**

We must receive your application by 15 February 2019.

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 use the information in the survey and your completed form to let you know if this applies to you.

There for You has produced an information and advice guide called "Help with Winter Fuel Costs"

[https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2018/10/25221\\_fuelcosts.pdf](https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2018/10/25221_fuelcosts.pdf)

- For more information about There for You and how we can help members visit [www.unison.org/thereforyou](http://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](mailto: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