

Winter fuel grant Application form 2016



supporting UNISON members
when life gets tough

Important information

- **Please** complete all sections and enclose supporting documents as incomplete applications will not be processed until evidence of your pay and total household income has been received. You will be contacted via email in the event of any queries.
- **Applicants are also required to complete the survey**
- **The Trustees reserve the right** to make appropriate enquiries to verify the information provided.
- **Applications are limited to one per household.** Where a grant is awarded it is limited to £40 and will be paid by cheque to the applicant.
- **There is a limited amount in the winter fuel grants fund** and once exhausted no further awards can be made. Priority will be given to those who have not previously applied. However it may be possible for you to apply to our general grants programme for assistance. We will let you know if this applies to you
- **Your application must be received no later than 23 February 2016.** Applications will then be processed and decisions communicated over the following few weeks.

Personal details

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Contact telephone no. _____

UNISON Branch _____

Membership No* _____

Date joined UNISON** _____

*You can contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857 if you do not have this information

**You must have paid at least four weeks subscriptions before 15 December 2015 to be eligible for consideration.

Who shares your home with you?

I am single I live with my partner

Please give details of everyone who lives in your home

Name	Age	Relationship to you	Please indicate if they are employed/ in education / benefits / other
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Now calculate your income

Please include all sources of income:

- Net salary after deducting tax, national insurance, superannuation, trade union subscriptions only
- As above for your partner
- Tax Credits* (see next section)
- **Other benefits paid directly to you/your partner e.g. State pension etc.
- Any other income e.g. part-time employment,

Do not include:

- *Childcare element of any tax credits paid
- **Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment or Child Benefit.

You should add your financial information in the boxes below:

£	a) Your monthly net income (refer to notes above)
£	b) Your partner's net income (refer to notes above)
£	Total per month (a+b)
£	c) Now multiply your total monthly income by 12
£	Total annual income

If as part of your tax credits you are paid an element towards childcare costs, how much do you receive each month? £

Eligibility

By signing the application form you are confirming that the following apply to you:

- My/our total household net income is £18,000 or less (excluding DLA/ PIP, Child Benefit and, the Childcare element only that forms part of my Tax Credits).
- I am a UNISON member and had paid at least 4 weeks subscriptions before 15 December 2015.
- I/we do not have savings in excess of £800 (this includes a rolling bank account balance).
- I/we are responsible for meeting the household fuel bills and are struggling to pay them.

Declaration

Please read this section carefully and sign to confirm that you understand this statement:

I confirm that the information provided in this form is correct and gives a true and accurate account of my/our current financial position.

I understand that any false or undisclosed information could result in the withdrawal or repayment of any grant that may be awarded.

I understand that the information on this form will be kept on a computer system and consent to the collection, processing and dissemination of this information by Unison There for You in line with the regulations outlined in the Data Protection Act 1998.

I understand that my application cannot be considered without supporting evidence of my entire income - including partner where applicable.

I have enclosed all of the following documents:

- Most recent payslip for you (and partner if applicable)
- Last month's full bank statement(s) for all accounts held (including partner if applicable)
- Separate confirmation of any income that is not shown on your bank statement

Where possible, and, to avoid any unnecessary delay please include a copy of your Tax Credit award letter if you receive an amount towards childcare costs.

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

Signed:

Date:

Return your completed application form along with all supporting paperwork to:

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

Alternatively Email: **Thereforyou@unison.co.uk**

You must put 'Winter Fuel Grant' in the title of the email and scan all supporting documents at the same time.

Help us to campaign against fuel poverty

All applicants are required to complete the following short survey as data collected will be used to help UNISON with future campaigns. This survey should take no longer than 5-10 minutes to complete.

Please tick all that apply.

What has been the impact on you and your family as a result of increasing fuel prices?

1. Do you take any of the following measures to save on heating costs?

- Avoid putting on the heating
 - Heat only the room(s) that you are using
 - Go to bed earlier
 - Wear extra clothes in bed
 - None of the above
 - Other – please give details below
-

2. Have you had to cut back on any of the following to ensure you can keep warm:

- Food
 - Socialising
 - Clothing
 - Children's activities
 - Other – please give details below
-

3. Is the health of any person in your household affected by your home being cold?

Yes No

If yes, how? e.g. more time off work through sickness, exhaustion, struggle to sleep, aching joints, difficulty concentrating at work/school etc. Please give details below.

4. Are you or is anyone in your household in receipt of:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) / Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
 - Carers allowance
 - Housing benefit
 - Council tax support
 - Income support/Universal Credit
 - Employment support allowance
 - Other – please indicate
-

Paying your bills

5. Fuel Poverty is described as anyone who pays 10% or more of their income on fuel costs. How much would you say as a % of your income you spend on fuel?

- Less than 5%
- 10-15%
- Between 5-10%
- More than 15%

6. Are you behind with any of the following?

- Fuel
- Mortgage
- Catalogue
- Bank Loans
- Water
- Council Tax
- Loans from family friends
- N/A
- Rent
- Credit cards

If yes, by how much:

- Less than £100
- £100-£200
- £200-£300
- £300-£400
- £400-£500
- £500-£600
- more than £600

7. If you find you're borrowing more money in order to pay something towards other bills or pay for food, where are you borrowing the money from?

- Payday lender
- Bank
- Friends/family
- Credit union
- Credit cards
- n/a
- Other – please give details

8. If you are behind with your bills, have you:

- Told your energy supplier, bank etc that you are struggling? Yes No
 - Been chased for repayment by any creditor in last 12 months Yes No
 - Become more concerned about keeping up with your payments Yes No
 - Taken advice on managing your debts? Yes No
 - Checked your entitlement to benefits in the last 12 months Yes No
 - Other (please give details)
-

9. Have you had to use a food bank?

Yes No

10. How long would you say you've been struggling financially?

Only in the last year Yes No
More than one year Yes No
More than two years Yes No
More than 3 years Yes No
More than 4 years Yes No

Other – please give details below:

11. Do you envisage your financial situation will (please tick one of the following boxes)

Improve in the next 12 months
Worsen in the next 12 months
Stay the same

Energy efficiency and help with fuel costs

12. How do you pay your fuel bill?

Direct debit
 As and when a bill is received
 Prepayment meter
 Smart card

13. Who is your energy provider?

British Gas NPower E-on
 EDF Scottish & Southern Energy
 Scottish Power Other (please specify)

14. Have you ever switched gas or electricity supplier and how long ago was this?

Never switched
 In the last year
 Over a year ago

15. If you have never tried switching or gave up why was this?

Too much hassle
 Comparing prices on inaccurate information e.g. bills are based on estimated usage which has little bearing on actual usage
 Don't know how to switch
 Debt to utility company prevented switching

16. Have you made the savings you expected from switching supplier and/or tariff?

Yes
 No prices stayed about the same
 No, prices increased.

17. If you have any other concerns now that we are in winter please give details below:

18. And finally, please tell us if you are employed on any of the following forms of contract:

Temporary Part-Time Agency
 Zero hours Casual Self-employed
 Other (please specify)

19. Have your conditions of employment changed in the last 18 months? Please tick one box only

Stayed the same
Changed for the better
Changed for the worse (please give details)

20. We work in Partnership with credit unions would you be interested in receiving information regarding the range of services offered by your credit union?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions, your contribution is very much appreciated

Help us to help others

We like to take every opportunity to make others aware of the help that is available and in so doing raise our profile and reach out to more members. Can we contact you about your experience?
Yes No