CONFIDENTIAL

**Winter fuel grant**

Application form 2014

Before filling in the form, please read the following important information:

• Only one member per household can apply.

• Incomplete forms will not be considered. You **must** complete all sections (including the survey) and enclose all the required supporting paperwork.

• As there is a limited amount in the fund, priority will be given to those who have not previously received a Winter Fuel grant. Once the fund is exhausted no further awards will be made.

• You will not be eligible for this scheme if you have received any other financial assistance from ‘There for You’ in the last 6 months.

• Your application must be received by no later than **28 February 2014**. Applications will then be processed and decisions notified in writing over the following weeks. Successful applicants will receive a personal cheque.

• Large print versions of this form are available on request.

Personal details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name       | Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other       |
| Address       |
|       | Postcode       |
| Email       |
| Contact telephone number       |
| Branch\*       |
| Membership Number\*       | Date joined UNISON\*       |

\*You can contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857 if you do not have this information.

Who lives with you?

Do you have a partner? Yes [ ]  No [ ]

Number of people that live in your home:
Working adults       Non-working adults       Children

Am I eligible for a winter fuel grant?

Now provide the following information about your income

a) Your monthly net income\* £

\*A net salary is the amount paid after deduction of tax, national insurance, superannuation and trade union subscriptions only. Other payroll deductions such as housing costs, savings schemes, loans including car loans, health insurances, fines etc will not be considered as part of our financial calculation. Do not include Child Benefit and Disability Living Allowance which are ignored as income for this grants programme

b) Your partner’s monthly net income\* (if applicable) £

Total per month £

c) Now multiply your total monthly income by 12.

Total annual income\*\* £

**Now read the following and tick to confirm that all statements apply**

[ ]  I/we do not have savings in excess of £800 (this includes rolling bank balances)

[ ]  No-one in my household has received a grant from ‘There for you’ in the last six months.

[ ]  I have paid union subscriptions for more than 1 month.

[ ]  My household net income is less than £18,000 pa

Supporting documents checklist

Incomplete forms will not be considered and, the following paperwork must be included with your application (please submit copies as we cannot return any paperwork).

I have enclosed the following documents:

[ ]  Latest bank statement(s) for a complete month, for all accounts and including full details of the account holder: Please highlight the income you have referred to in this form

[ ]  Latest payslip for you (and your partner if applicable)

[ ]  Separate confirmation of any other income that is not shown on your bank account.

Declaration

I confirm that the information I have given is a true reflection of my current financial position. I also confirm that I am struggling to pay my winter fuel bill(s). I understand that failure to provide the supporting documents referred to above will mean that my application cannot be considered.

Signed:

Date:

[Note:The Trustees reserve the right to make appropriate enquiries to verify the information provided]

Data Protection

All personal information will be held in confidence by ‘There for you’ for the purposes of assessing this application, in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. A full copy of our data protection policy is available on request.

Please return your application form to: There for you, UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY by 28 February 2014 at the very latest.

‘There for you’ is the working name of UNISON Welfare a registered charity. For more information about ‘There for you’ please go to www.unison.co.uk/thereforyou or email thereforyou@unison.co.uk. Registered charity number 1023552/SCO38305

Although your answers will be kept anonymous, we occasionally use case studies to illustrate the financial difficulties faced by members on low income. Would you be willing to be interviewed or share your experience?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

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.

What has been the impact on you and your family as a result of increasing fuel prices?
Tick all that apply.

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 – include

2. If none of the above, have you had to cut back on any of the following to ensure you can keep warm:

[ ]  Food [ ]  Socialising [ ]  Clothing

[ ]  Other – anything else you’ve had to cut back on

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

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If yes, how?

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

[ ]  Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

[ ]  Carers allowance

OR a means tested benefit?

[ ]  Housing benefit

[ ]  Council tax benefit

[ ]  Income support

[ ]  ESA

[ ]  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%

[ ]  Between 5-10%

[ ]  10-15%

[ ]  More than 15%

6. Are you currently in arrears with any of the following:

[ ]  Gas [ ] Electricity [ ]  Water rates

If yes, by how much:

[ ]  Less than £100 [ ]  £200-£300 [ ]  £300-£400 [ ]  £400-£500 [ ]  £100-£200 [ ]  £500-£600

[ ]  more than £600

**7. Have you reached an agreement with your supplier to repay these arrears?**

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

8. Have you had to borrow money to pay for fuel bills in the last 12 months?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

9. Debts

a) Have you any other debts? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

b) Are you concerned about keeping up with payments? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

c) Have you been chased for repayment by any of your creditors in the last 12months? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

d) Did you know that UNISON offers a confidential debt advice service for members and their family that is completely free? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

10. How do you pay your fuel bill?

[ ]  Direct debit

[ ]  As and when a bill is received

[ ]  Prepayment meter

Energy efficiency and help with fuel costs

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

[ ]  Never switched

[ ]  In the last year

[ ]  Over a year ago

12. 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

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

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  (a) No prices stayed about the same

[ ]  (b) No, prices increased.

Other

14. Do you have any other concerns now that we are in winter?

[ ]  Yes – if yes, please provide details in the box below [ ]  No

15. 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)

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