

School uniform grant 2017

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are UNISON There for You School Uniform Grants?

In addition to our normal range of services and in response to the growing difficulties many members on low income face, a programme has been put in place that will assist our most vulnerable members with the cost of purchasing school uniforms.

How much are the Grants?

They are one-off grants of £40 per school age child, up to a total of £120

Am I eligible?

To be eligible you must be:

- A member who has paid 4 weeks subscriptions before 22nd May 2017 the launch date of this programme
- **Either** receive Housing Benefit
- **Or** 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 any 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)
- Financially responsible for the child/children
- Not eligible for funding for uniform costs from your local authority

Is there anything else that may affect my application?

- 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 winter fuel grant)
- Applications are limited to one per household and priority is given to those who have not previously received a school uniform grant
- Please ensure that you include your membership number and send in all the requested paperwork with the form & survey

How do I apply?

To apply for a School Uniform Grant:

- Print out and complete the short 1-page application form & survey
- Download forms from our website www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/
- Contact Unison Direct on 0800 0857 857 for a form to be posted to you
- Contact your local UNISON branch for a form

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*:

- Proof that housing benefit is paid
- Most recent payslip **
- Proof of child benefit
- Tax credit award letter showing element given towards childcare costs if appropriate
- Last month's full bank statement ** detailing all income and outgoings

OR

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

- Most recent payslip**
- Proof of child benefit
- Tax credit award letter showing element given towards childcare costs if appropriate
- Last month's full bank statement ** detailing all income and outgoings

*Please **ONLY** send copies as we cannot return any paperwork

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

Checklist – please make sure you have enclosed:

- Form (stating membership number)
- ALL Supporting paperwork
- Completed short survey

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

Deadline

We must receive by 21st July 2017.

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 School Uniform 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.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/
- contact your local UNISON Branch Welfare Officer (if you do not know who this is contact UNISON Direct 0800 0857 857)
- There for You Support Team on 020 7121 5620 or email thereforyou@unison.co.uk.



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