

School uniform grant 2019

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 13 May 2019 the launch date of this programme
- **Either** receive Housing Benefit (or the housing element of Universal Credit)
- **Or** 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.
- 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**

How do I apply?

To apply for a School Uniform Grant:

- Print out and complete the short 1-page application form
- 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 (or the housing element of Universal Credit) – then enclose all of the following paperwork*:

- Proof that housing benefit is paid (or the housing element of Universal Credit)
- If you were receiving Housing Benefit and have moved onto Universal Credit you will need to send us your full Universal Credit letter as you may still be eligible for a grant
- 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 – including bank statement(s)

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

Deadline

We must receive by 19 July 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 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.