

# UNISON

## ‘There for you’ NEWSLETTER

We are UNISON’s registered charity offering FREE and confidential services, benefits and support including:-

- Financial Assistance - **if you are in financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances**
- Links to Credit Unions - **for loans/savings**
- Small Grants - **School Uniform May-July & Winter Fuel Dec-Feb**
- Debt advice - **freephone 0800 389 3302**
- Wellbeing breaks - **during illness/respite for carers**
- Support & information – **listening support & sign posting**

## WINTER FUEL GRANTS

***Reminder:  
closing date for receipt of  
applications  
‘Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February’***

# WINTER FUEL GRANTS

## Get help staying warm this winter

With rising fuel costs and another cold winter many members are worried about how they're going to pay this year's winter fuel bills

### Help is on hand

"There for You" has set up a limited fund to help UNISON members on low income by way of a one-off payment of up to £50

To apply and download the application form visit:

### There for You

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>



or simply contact your local UNISON branch office or UNISON Direct 0800 0857 857

### Eligibility

To be considered for a grant, you must be able to show that you meet the following criteria:

#### Either

- You are in receipt of housing benefit

#### Or

- Your household **net income** is less than £18,000

#### And

- Neither you/your partner have savings in excess of £800 (including rolling bank balance)
- You have not received a grant from UNISON There for you in the last 6 months.
- You must have **paid a minimum of 4 weeks subscriptions before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

Your application must be received no later than 17 February 2017  
Applications will then be processed and decisions communicated over the following weeks

# Branch Welfare Officer Training: 2017 Induction ...

|   |                 |                                     |                    |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Eastern</i>  | <i>Regional</i> | <i>Colchester</i>                   | <i>7-9 April</i>   |
| <i>Northern Ireland</i>                                     | <i>Regional</i> | <i>Belfast</i>                      | <i>27-28 April</i> |
| <i>Northern, North West,<br/>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</i> | <i>National</i> | <i>Manchester</i>                   | <i>3-4 May</i>     |
| <i>Greater London &amp; South<br/>East</i>                  | <i>National</i> | <i>UNISON<br/>Centre<br/>London</i> | <i>10-11 May</i>   |
| <i>Scotland</i>   | <i>Regional</i> | <i>Glasgow</i>                      | <i>12-14 May</i>   |
| <i>East Midlands</i>  | <i>Regional</i> | <i>Nottingham</i>                   | <i>4-5 July</i>    |
| <i>South West, Wales, West<br/>Midlands</i>                 | <i>National</i> | <i>Bristol</i>                      | <i>19-20 July</i>  |

## Next Steps ...

***Making the Case***      UNISON Centre      Cost : £15  
2 dates available:      Thurs 6 April &      Tues 19 Sept

This follow on course which is next steps to the branch welfare officer induction training and is a must for trained officers wishing to gain more insight into how the application & grant process works. It is usual that a BWO will have been in post for a few months and have undertaken a few cases. It will also offer helpful information and advice for sign posting.

***Introduction to Benefits***      UNISON Centre      Cost : £90  
2 dates available:      Mon 3 July &      Mon 11 Sept

This session will give a short introduction to benefits, and will be a chance to gain valuable knowledge in this complex field. This session will be run by Neil Arnott and because this will be run by an external agency, we will have to charge accordingly. However we believe this course will be in much demand and as numbers will be very limited, it will be offered out in the first instance to trained BWOs

For further information please contact Andrea Barker  
[a.barker@unison.co.uk](mailto:a.barker@unison.co.uk) on 0207 121 5620

# Tax Credit Calculator



## Time is running out...

For you to claim the tax credits that you might be entitled to. About a million people are missing out on up to £50 a week. To make sure you aren't one of them you need to apply now before it's too late.

## Why?

Tax credits are being replaced with Universal Credit which is less generous for most working people. It is mostly single people who currently get Universal Credit but the plan is to move everyone on to it. When that happens where you live, new claims for tax credits will stop unless you have more than two children. The government says no-one who moves from tax credits to Universal Credit will be worse off unless there is a big change to their circumstances, but UNISON believes it's important that you claim tax credits before Universal Credit arrives where you live.

Make sure the amount you get is protected so you don't lose out. UNISON has created an easy to use calculator which tells you in two minutes if you qualify and how much you should get.

It even has a link so you can immediately order a tax credit claim form online.

Go to: <https://unison-takeup.entitledto.co.uk/>

If you have any tax credit queries please contact HMRC - Tel 0345 300 3900, your local Citizens Advice Bureau or the Welfare Rights section at your Council.

**Claim now before it's too late**

## To access There for You – UNISON welfare support:

- **contact your local branch welfare officer. If you do not know who this is please contact :**
- **UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857 or**
- **There for You 0207 121 5620;**  
**thereforyou@unison.co.uk;**
- **For work issues contact UNISON Direct 0800 0857 857**
- **To join UNISON please contact 0800 171 2193**

For further information:  
please contact UNISON There for You

020 7121 5620 [thereforyou@unison.co.uk](mailto:thereforyou@unison.co.uk)

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