

## UNISON Northern Welfare Update - Autumn 2020

There for You is UNISON's dedicated welfare charity providing confidential advice and support services for members and their dependants experiencing financial and emotional difficulties.



there  
for you

**COVID-19  
response fund**

we're there for you

**UNISON's welfare charity, There for You, is reopening the COVID-19 response fund to help members who are struggling as a direct result of coronavirus.**

At the start of the pandemic There for You introduced a new fund to help members who were struggling financially as a direct consequence of COVID-19.

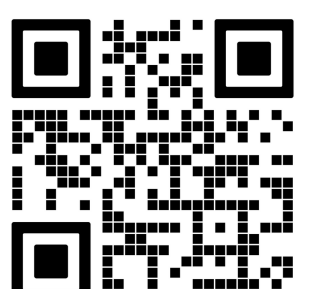
The first round of the COVID-19 response fund ran from May to July and distributed over £250,000 in grants to individual members in financial difficulty due to the pandemic. These grants have made a massive difference to UNISON members.

**From 16th November, There for You are launching the second round of the COVID-19 response fund. Grants of up to £500 will be made to help members in financial difficulty. These grants can support:**

- **Day-to-day living costs: for example, if you or your partner are furloughed or shielding and relying on statutory sick pay.**
- **Loss of employment due to redundancy or loss of working hours or a second job.**
- **Housing costs such rent, mortgage or council tax arrears that have accrued since March.**

These grants are in addition to the existing financial support in place and can support members where another person in the household has been financially impacted by COVID-19.

**You can apply online at the website below or by scanning the barcode.  
THE FUND LAUNCHES ON 16 NOVEMBER AND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN  
HIGH DEMAND.**



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to the COVID-19 response fund, UNISON members experiencing financial difficulties can access a wide range of support through There for You including one-off grants.

**There for You can support members and their families with grants towards;** General living costs, household appliances, urgent repairs, disability equipment and adaptations, utility bills & funeral costs.

**Grants can be awarded for all sorts of unexpected reasons such as;** Loss of income, relationship breakdown, bereavement, caring responsibilities, illness, or needing to buy equipment because of a disability.

Same day immediate emergency grants can be awarded of up to £150.

### UNISON DEBTLINE - 0800 389 3302

UNISON Debtline can help you deal with all sorts of debt, from credit cards, to mortgage arrears, to county court judgment claims. UNISON Debtline can provide:

- Immediate advice - a free and confidential, service with no hidden charges
- A personal case officer to advise you and negotiate with your creditors
- A manageable debt plan to suit your circumstances

### UNISON BENEFITS CHECKER

It can often be tricky to figure out which benefits you are eligible for and how to claim. UNISON Benefits Calculator can help you find out what you are entitled to. You can access the UNISON Benefit Calculator online at <https://unison.entitledto.co.uk/home/start>.

There for You will shortly be also launching a free to use budgeting calculator.

### WELLBEING BREAKS

Wellbeing breaks can provide welcome relief from stress and respite from difficult circumstances – this can include assisting with recovery from illness to help prepare for a return to work. There for You may be able to help you towards the costs of a break, depending on your financial situation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applications for wellbeing breaks are unavailable at present but There for You hope to be able to offer this service in the not too distant future.

**There for You can also provide support towards visa fees and offers School Uniform and Winter Fuel grants. Contact There for You for further information.**