# There for You services for UNISON members who are also migrant workers

# How can There for You help members who are also migrant workers?

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, There for You can offer you support including non-repayable one-off grants.

There are various reasons why you may need to apply including but not limited to; loss of income, relationship breakdown, bereavement, illness, need for disability equipment, caring for someone with special needs or an illness in the UK or overseas.

There for You also offers grants towards children's school uniforms and winter energy bills, which are launched at specific times in the year. More information about them can be found on the UNISON website.

# What are some examples of how There for You can help me?

"Something has happened in my family and my income has reduced. I can no longer afford my essential bills."

"My cooker has suddenly broken, and I cannot afford to buy another one. I have no way to cook food."

# Can There for You assist with my visa fees?

There for You cannot assist with paying for any visa fees. However, There for You can assist with other essential expenditure/items if you are struggling financially due to an unforeseen circumstance.

# I want to apply for the There for You School Uniform and Fuel grants, but I do not receive a means-tested benefit

You do not need to receive a means-tested benefit or have recourse to public funds to apply for any of There for You's grants. We know that not all of our members are in receipt of benefits, we also accept applications from members who are on a low income.

#### I am struggling to manage some of my bills and debt

The <u>UNISON Debtline</u> service provides confidential debt advice and will provide you with the options available to help you to manage your bills and debt.

#### I don't have recourse to public funds, what is considered 'public funds'?

Public funds include but are not limited to: Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Child Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Disability Living Allowance, Housing Benefit, Homelessness assistance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Social Fund payments, Scottish Welfare Fund payments, Tax Credits, Welfare assistance payments by local authorities (Northern Ireland) and Universal Credit.

### What is not considered 'public funds'?

Assistance from local authority social services departments, education, Legal Aid, Bereavement benefits, Industrial Injuries benefits, New Style Employment and Support Allowance, New Style Jobseeker's Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Statutory

Maternity/ Paternity/Adoption/Shared Parental/Parental Bereavement Pay and Statutory Sick Pay.

Please seek further advice before applying for any of these non-public funds.

I do not have recourse to public funds, but my partner does have recourse to public funds.

Your partner may still be entitled to apply for welfare benefits in their own right. Please seek further advice before applying or even just to know your rights.

I am not well enough to work, and I do not get Statutory Sick Pay, I also do not have recourse to public funds.

If you have paid the correct amount of National Insurance contributions in the years before your sickness you may be entitled to New Style Employment and Support Allowance. This includes contributions paid as a self-employed person. Please seek further advice before applying (see the below Further welfare benefits advice section).

I do not have recourse to public funds and my job has ended, I have no money. If you have paid the correct amount of National Insurance contributions in the years before your unemployment you may be entitled to New Style Jobseekers Allowance. This includes contributions paid as a self-employed person. Please seek further advice before applying (see the below Further welfare benefits advice section).

#### **Further information**

There for You (UNISON Welfare) | Member support and services | UNISON National

<u>UNISON Migrant Worker Network:</u> Scan the QR Code to join the Network.



UNISON migrant worker members can access expert migrant rights advice and support for themselves and their families via a UNISON funded partnership with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). Members can access the advice service via UNISONdirect (0800 0 857 857 / <u>UNISONdirect online</u>) who can then arrange an appointment for members with a JCWI advisor.

Get free and trusted debt advice | There for You (UNISON Welfare) | UNISON National Turn2us Grants Search

# Further welfare benefits advice

Citizens Advice

The Law Centres Network

New Style Employment and Support Allowance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

New Style Jobseeker's Allowance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)