



The Warm Front Team

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The **Home Heat Helpline 0800 33 66 99** is a free, dedicated service providing fuel poverty and energy advice to people in need and those calling on their behalf from the health, care and voluntary sectors.

This note describes basic features of the Warm Front Team which provides Government grants to help alleviate fuel poverty. It is written for constituents and Members who are trying to help them.

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A. Introduction

Energy efficiency is a key part of Government policy and is expected to play a significant role in meeting climate change targets following the Kyoto Protocol. A central part of Government strategy on domestic energy efficiency is the development of the Warm Front Team (formerly called the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES)) which is designed to help the 'fuel poor'. Fuel poverty is usually defined as a household in which more than 10% of income is spent to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.

The scheme, which comes under the auspices of Defra, provides Government grants for eligible individuals to improve home insulation and heating.

B. Administration

A number of changes to the scheme occurred in June 2005. From that date it is administered in all parts of the UK by one organisation, **Eaga Partnership Ltd**. Eaga can be contacted by freephone, where there are assistants to help callers, or via their website, <http://www.eaga.co.uk>, which contains information and online application forms for grants.

Since energy efficiency is a devolved issue the position in England, Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland differ, and there are separate contact details for those applying to Eaga depending upon the region in which they live. The freephone telephone numbers are as follows.

England: 0800316 6019 (8am-6pm Mon-Fri).

Wales: 0800316 2815 (8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri)

Scotland: 0800316 1653 (8am-6pm Mon-Fri).

Northern Ireland: 0800181 667(8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri).

Information about grants in different regions and application forms are also at: http://www.eaga.co.uk/Grants/central_gov-grants.htm.

C. Eligibility

Eligibility for grants depends upon a number of factors and can be assessed for individuals by staff answering the above telephone numbers.

The following details for **England** are taken from Eaga's website:¹

The Warm Front Grant provides a package of energy efficiency and heating measures up to the value of £2,700 (except where oil central heating is installed or repaired where a maximum grant of £4,000 available).

If the property has previously received any measures under Warm Front, the value of the grant available to the existing householder under Warm Front will be the balance of £2,700 or £4,000 if oil central heating is involved, less the value of all works previously completed in the property under Warm Front since June 2000.

¹ http://www.eaga.co.uk/Grants/warm_front.htm

If you own your home, or rent it from a private landlord, you may be able to claim a grant of up to £2700 under the Warm Front Scheme.

The following people may be able to claim a grant under Warm Front:

1. Householders aged 60 or over **and** are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

Income Support
Council Tax Benefit
Housing Benefit
Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)
Pension Credit

OR

2. Householders who (a) have a child under 16, or (b) are pregnant and have been given maternity certificate MAT B1 in relation to the pregnancy concerned, **and** are also in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

Income Support
Council Tax Benefit
Housing Benefit
Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)
Pension Credit

OR

3. Householders in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

Working Tax Credit with income of less than £15, 050 and which must include a disability element
Disability Living Allowance
Child Tax Credit with an income of less than £15, 050
Housing Benefit + Disability Premium
Income Support + Disability Premium
Council Tax + Disability Premium
War Disablement Pension (+ Constant Attendance Allowance or Mobility Supplement)
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit + Constant Attendance Allowance
Attendance Allowance

NOTES:

Householder includes the applicant's spouse, or partner, if they are living with the applicant

Partner means the spouse of the person with whom the applicant lives as husband or wife or civil partner

D. Further information

More information about the Warm front and associated issues is at the Defra website:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/hees/index.htm>