



BENEVOLENT FUND APPLICATION FORM 2018

An annual budgetary allocation is made by the Central Executive into a fund to provide assistance to members and/or their families who find themselves in particularly difficult circumstances.

GUIDELINES

[It is the intention to apply these guidelines flexibly and sensitively according to the needs presented].

- [a] The Union allocates a limited budget to this fund. The fund receives many applications and is rarely in a position to meet any request in full. Due to the limited resources available, the maximum payment in any particular case will not normally exceed €1,000. [This figure will be reviewed from time to time in the light of the Union's finances and the level and nature of applications to the fund].
- [b] Generally, the fund will make a once off payment, within the above limits, in any case recommended for payment. However, this does not prevent exceptional situations being dealt with on their merits.
- [c] Members, branches and staff are urged to consider all funding options when needs arise and not to depend solely on the Union benevolent fund. Branches should also consider donations from Branch funds or the running of a fundraising event in addition to making application to the fund.
- [d] Branches should endeavour to utilise all available expertise within the Union's membership in addressing the difficulties involved e.g. by ensuring that the applicant has received all their statutory and other entitlements.
- [e] The fund will not provide financial assistance where the problem is properly the responsibility of the health service, the social welfare system or the supplementary welfare system. Members and their families that have been refused payment from these sources should be encouraged and assisted to appeal, where appropriate.
- [f] Members and their families are encouraged to seek flexibility from banks and other loan institutions in relation to loan repayments or rescheduling where there is a difficulty in repaying a loan.
- [g] Members and their families are encouraged to make full use of the credit union movement.
- [h] Members and their families are encouraged to make full use of the Union's financial protection schemes, e.g. salary protection and life assurance schemes.
- [i] In relation to your data, Branches are not to retain any copies of your form. The Union will retain a copy for one year for audit purposes only. Please do not submit original copies of your documentation.



BENEVOLENT FUND APPLICATION FORM

Notes:

- A. Pages 2 – 4 should be completed and signed by the applicant unless he/she is medically unable to do so.
- B. To facilitate a speedy response, all relevant information and supporting documentation should be attached to this application. Providing inaccurate information or deliberately withholding relevant information will invalidate the application, which will not be considered as a result.
- C. All information provided by applicants will be treated with strict confidentiality on a need to know basis.
- D. This form and supporting documentation should be forwarded to your Branch Secretary for completion of **page 6** (Branch Comments on Application). Applications will not be considered by the NEC unless this portion of the form is completed.

1. **Name of Applicant:**

Address:

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Date of Birth:

Employer:

Grade/Category:

Fórsa Branch:

Fórsa Member since: (year).

2, **Applicant's Income**

Are you a member of the Fórsa Salary Protection Scheme? YES NO

Are you on Full Pay? Half Pay? Pension Rate of Pay?

No Pay?

When will/did you cease entitlement to full pay? (date)

Salary*: Amount per week [Net of PAYE/PRSI] €

Social Welfare*: Amount per week €

Salary Protection Scheme*: Amount per week €

Other Income*: Amount per week €

*Please give details of other income, if any

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* Please insert `Nil' if appropriate.

Have you received financial assistance from any other source? YES NO
[Including Branch]

If yes, please give details.

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Do you have any savings/investments in excess of €1,000? YES NO

If yes, please give details including amounts.

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3. Others in Household

Name	Relationship to you.	Age (Children only)	Income * Per week
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Do any of the above have savings/investments in excess of €1,000? YES NO

If YES, please give details including amounts.

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*** Please insert `Nil' if appropriate.**

4. Please outline your weekly/monthly outgoings (e.g. mortgage repayments, rent household expenses etc.) and debts (e.g. outstanding mortgage, loans etc.) specifying the approximate amounts involved.

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5. Where the application is in respect of medical costs please provide the following details:

Do the costs refer to yourself? Spouse/Partner? Dependent Children?

Nature of illness

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Where hospitalised please state;

Name of Hospital

Dates hospitalised:(from/to)

Hospital expenses €

Other medical expenses €

Other relevant expenses €

[Please attach details on a separate sheet]

Do you have a medical card? YES NO

Are you a member of VHI/BUPA or other health insurer? YES NO

If YES, which Plan?

Amount of hospital and medical expenses not re-imbursed by insurer or other source €

[Please attach any supporting documentation from insurers etc.]

Are you a member of the Hospital Saturday Fund or similar insurer? YES NO

Have you made a claim for tax relief for the unreimbursed hospital/medical costs above?

YES NO

Have you applied to other agencies (e.g. employment based welfare fund) for assistance with these expenses?

YES NO

If so, give details indicating any amounts received.

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6. Where the application is in respect of matters other than or in addition to medical costs please set out the details below.

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7. Please provide any additional information that you consider might assist the Union in considering this application.

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8. I declare that the information given in this application form is correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have not withheld any relevant information.

Signature of Applicant *

Date

* Or authorised person where not reasonable to have applicant sign the form.

Branch Comments on Application

of
(Name to be inserted)

The application was considered by the branch committee/officers onit was decided to recommend as follows:

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Any observations that the Branch considers may be of assistance to the NEC Benevolent Fund Committee (including details of any financial support being provided by the branch).

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Has the branch made any financial contribution to the applicant? If so, please provide details. If not, why not?

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Signed

Position **Date**

On behalf of **Branch**

This form should be submitted to the General Secretary for circulation to the members of the NEC Benevolent Fund Committee.

So as to maximise confidentiality the Branch should not keep a copy of this application.

Recommendation of NEC Benevolent Fund Committee to the NEC.

[Specify the names of the Applicant, the amount, if any, recommended and to whom payment is to be made]

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Signed Date
ON BEHALF OF BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE

[All copies of the application should be destroyed or returned to the General Secretary or his nominee]

Decision of the NEC in Relation to Application.

The NEC at its meeting on decided as follows: [Specify the name of Applicant, the amount involved and to whom the payment is to be made].

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Signed Date
ON BEHALF OF THE NEC

[A copy of this decision but not the full application to be provided to the Accounts Section for urgent payment. The application should be returned by the General Secretary or his nominee for audit purposes].

FOR ACCOUNTS SECTION USE

Cheque No: **Issued on:**

Signed: **Date:**