

Warm Home Discount Broader Group Eligibility

The Warm Home Discount Regulations (and recent Miscellaneous Amendments) introduced standard criteria for eligibility that all participating suppliers must adhere to. The Regulations set out a compulsory list of benefits – see below - which suppliers must include in their eligibility criteria for Broader Group rebate payments, along with any others chosen at their discretion (subject to Ofgem approval).

Each supplier has a capped amount of funding available based on market share, and Broader Group discounts are offered on a first come, first served basis.

In order to qualify a consumer **must** be in receipt of one of the following five benefits:

1. Income Support **and either**
 - a) have a child under the age of 5 who ordinarily resides with that person **or**
 - b) receive any one of the following in addition to Income Support:
 - Child tax credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
 - A disabled child premium
 - A disability premium, enhanced disability premium or severe disability premium
 - A pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium or enhanced pensioner premium
2. Income-related Employment and Support Allowance which includes a work-related activity or support component **and either**
 - a) have a child under the age of 5 who ordinarily resides with that person **or**
 - b) receive any one of the following in addition to Employment and Support Allowance:
 - Child Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
 - a disabled child premium
 - a disability premium, enhanced disability premium or severe disability premium
 - a pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium or enhanced pensioner premium
3. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance **and either**
 - a) have a child under the age of 5 who ordinarily resides with that person **or**
 - b) receive any one of the following in addition to income-based Jobseeker's Allowance:
 - Child Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
 - a disabled child premium
 - a disability premium, enhanced disability premium or severe disability premium
 - a pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium or enhanced pensioner premium
4. Universal Credit and has an earned income of up to £1,349 in at least one of the relevant assessment periods (beginning no earlier than 6 months before the start of the scheme year) **and either**
 - a) in receipt of the limited capability for work element, with or without a work-related activity element **or**
 - b) in receipt of the disabled child element **or**
 - c) have parental responsibility for a child under the age of 5 who ordinarily resides with that person

5. Child Tax Credit by virtue of an award which is based on an annual income not exceeding £16,190 **and either**
- a) receive any one of the following in addition:
 - Child Tax Credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
 - a disabled child premium
 - a disability premium, enhanced disability premium or severe disability premium
 - a pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium or enhanced pensioner premium
 - b) have parental responsibility for a child under the age of 5 who ordinarily resides with that person

Suppliers also have discretion to target vulnerable customers they believe should receive a Broader Group rebate; within the WHD scheme's parameters that support should be given mainly to those in fuel poverty or in a fuel poverty 'at risk' group. The criteria outlined in the WHD Regulations provide an indication of the fundamentals for any other criteria developed by suppliers i.e. that the customer has to be both on a low income **and** vulnerable. This can be either low income from benefits (other than those outlined above), or low earned income. The low income threshold is aligned to the government's child tax credit threshold. Vulnerability can include a wide range of conditions from medical, social or age-related vulnerability. It is for suppliers to determine and be able to show or evidence the vulnerabilities they will include. Ofgem has to be assured or satisfied that customers meeting the criteria will wholly or mainly be people in or at risk of fuel poverty

A list of suppliers participating in the WHD scheme is available at <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/energy-suppliers>

