

Community Care Fund



Commission on Poverty
October 2015

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Community Care Fund: Introduction

The Community Care Fund (CCF) is a trust fund established in early 2011 under the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1044) with the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated as its trustee. Its main objective is to provide assistance to people facing economic difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but have special circumstances that are not covered. In addition, the CCF may implement measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that can be considered for incorporation into the Government's regular assistance and service programmes.

The CCF has since 2013 been integrated into the work of the reinstated Commission on Poverty (CoP). The CCF Task Force, set up under the CoP as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, is responsible for advising the CoP on the CCF's various arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes, the co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of assistance programmes and the evaluation of their effectiveness. The CCF Task Force will also liaise closely with other CoP task forces and provide mutual support, so as to draw up programmes to provide assistance to the underprivileged.



The operation of the CCF is guided by the following principles:

- (1) building a caring culture in society by gathering the efforts of various sectors of the community and encouraging the better-off to contribute;
- (2) programmes should be people-oriented with assistance directly provided to beneficiaries; administrative costs or involvement of implementing agencies should be minimised though the need for non-governmental organisations' help to reach out to target groups outside the existing service network will not be precluded; programmes should be multifarious in nature; and the vetting process should be streamlined to ensure cost-effectiveness;
- (3) programmes should complement the assistance and services provided by the Government or other charitable funds; duplication of efforts should be avoided as far as practicable; and
- (4) operation of the CCF will mainly be funded by investment returns on the seed capital, but the seed capital may be deployed in accordance with the principle of financial prudence in response to needs.

The target beneficiaries of the CCF are those facing economic difficulties and in need of assistance.

The Government has injected \$5 billion and \$15 billion into the CCF in 2011 and 2013 respectively. At its initial stage of establishment, the CCF accepted around \$1.8 billion donations from the business sector. The CCF also accepts donations from the community. As at end August 2015, the balance of the CCF is around \$20.087 billion.

Community Care Fund Task Force: Membership

(1 December 2014 – 30 June 2017)

Chairperson

Dr Law Chi-kwong, GBS, JP

Vice-chairperson

Dr Bunny Chan Chung-bun, GBS, JP

Members of the Commission on Poverty

Hon Cheung Kwok-che

Mr Chua Hoi-wai

Mr Ho Hei-wah, BBS

Mr Lau Ming-wai, BBS, JP

Mr Clarence Leung Wang-ching

Hon Michael Tien Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Ms Yvonne Sin (*until 30 June 2015*)

Co-opted Members

Miss Ophelia Chan Chiu-ling, BBS

Ms Chang Siu-wah

Mr Cheung Leong

Dr Cheung Wai-lun, JP

Mr Langton Cheung Yung-pong, MH

Mr Stanton Chu Wai-ki

Dr Saimond Ip

Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi, JP

Dr Sigmund Leung Sai-man, JP

Dr Donald Li Kwok-tung, SBS, JP

Mr Daryl Ng Win-kong, JP

Ms Nancy Tsang Lan-see, JP

Ms Grace Yu Ho-wun

Dr Yuen Pong-yiu

Ex-officio Members

Permanent Secretary for Education (or his representative)

Permanent Secretary for Food & Health (Health) (or his representative)

Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (or his representative)

Permanent Secretary for Labour & Welfare (or his representative)

Director of Home Affairs (or his representative)

Director of Social Welfare (or his representative)

Community Care Fund Task Force: Terms of Reference

- (1) Advise the Commission on Poverty (CoP) on the Community Care Fund's various strategies and arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes (including target beneficiaries, assistance amounts, handling of cross-sectoral issues and setting priorities);
- (2) Co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of assistance programmes and review their effectiveness, as well as advising the CoP on the incorporation of programmes into the Government's regular assistance programme and service;
- (3) Liaise closely with other CoP task forces and provide mutual support, as well as making timely report on work progress and plans to the CoP; and
- (4) Collaborate with the CoP and other CoP task forces to prepare for the annual Poverty Summit, report the progress of the CoP's work to the public, and exchange with the members of the public and various sectors of the community on promoting poverty alleviation work.

Community Care Fund Assistance Programmes – Introduction

Since its establishment, the Community Care Fund (CCF) has launched 30 assistance programmes under the medical, education, housing, welfare and home affairs areas for target beneficiary groups including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, patients, new arrivals and ethnic minorities, etc. People outside the existing safety net or the coverage of the Government's short-term relief measures have been identified and provided with assistance. The total commitments exceed \$6.188 billion. As at the end of August 2015, more than 1.13 million people have benefited under these programmes. So far, 11 programmes that have been proven effective have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme. These regularised programmes will involve an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$720 million. In addition, the Government has provided an additional injection of \$1.5 billion into the CCF in 2011 to implement the programme to provide a one-off allowance of \$6,000 to new arrivals.

Last year, the CCF rolled out five new programmes to cover low-income students and students with special educational needs; and expanded the "Elderly dental assistance programme" to cover elders who are "Old Age Living Allowance" recipients with those aged 80 or above in the first phase.



Assistance Programmes In Progress

The Community Care Fund has rolled out assistance programmes under the medical, education, housing, welfare and home affairs areas. Brief introduction of the 15 programmes and the statistics as at 31 August 2015 are set out in the following pages.





1 Subsidy for patients for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the Samaritan Fund

Starting Date of Implementation

August 2011

Funding Provision

\$474.27 million

(current provision for 5 years)
(including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and those of the programme on page 23 of this booklet)

Beneficiary Statistics

4 715 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$354.34 million

Programme

Subsidy for patients of Hospital Authority for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net but have been rapidly accumulating medical scientific evidence and with relatively higher efficacy (to subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism and its sliding scale are adopted as the financial assessment criteria.

Progress and Evaluation

The programme initially covered six specified self-financed cancer drugs, and was expanded to nine in August 2013 and to ten starting from the fifth year of operation (i.e. 1 August 2015).

The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund in May 2012.



2 Special care subsidy for the severely disabled

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2011

(extension of implementation in November 2012, November 2013, November 2014 and November 2015 respectively)

Funding Provision

\$236.37 million

Beneficiary Statistics

6 963 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$143.54 million

Programme

Subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below 60 who are non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients, requiring constant attendance and living in the community (according to the monthly household income of the applicants, the subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" (\$2,000 per month); "three-quarters grant" (\$1,500 per month) or "half grant" (\$1,000 per month))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged below 60, living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme as at 31 July 2014; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty (CoP) in May 2013.

The CoP approved in September 2015 to extend again the implementation of the programme to provide a maximum of 12 months of subsidy. Details will be announced in November 2015.





3 Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients living in rented private housing

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2011 (first launch)
September 2013 (second launch)
September 2014 (third launch)
September 2015 (fourth launch)

Beneficiary Statistics

22 605 households (first launch)
17 769 households (second launch)
14 992 households (third launch)
About 14 280 households are expected (fourth launch)

Funding Provision

\$33.671 million (first launch)
\$53.77 million (second launch)
\$49.27 million (third launch)
Around \$51.5 million (fourth launch)

Disbursements

\$32.085 million (first launch)
Around \$51.3 million (second launch)
Around \$44.58 million (third launch)

Programme

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme

(first launched: a subsidy of \$1,000 for one-person household; and \$2,000 for two-or-more-person household)

(launched for the second, third and fourth time: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- The fourth-launched programme is for CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceeded the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2015.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in July 2015 which approved to launch the programme for the fourth time. It is expected that the disbursement of subsidy will commence before the end of 2015.

4 Relocation allowance for eligible residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department's enforcement action

Starting Date of Implementation

December 2011

Funding Provision

\$4.43 million

Beneficiary Statistics

141 households (205 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$0.39 million

Programme

Relocation allowance for eligible residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement action

(an allowance of \$2,500 for one-person household; \$5,500 for two-to-three-person household; and \$7,100 for four-or-more-person household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons who have passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, student financial assistance schemes, Hospital Authority Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism or Work Incentive Transport Subsidy; or
- household income not exceeding 100% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income for one-person households; and not exceeding 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income for two-or-more-person households.

Progress and Evaluation

BD has inspected 98 target industrial buildings, and has so far identified cases of unauthorised sub-divided units for domestic use in 14 of them. BD has taken enforcement action against these cases and enforcement action was completed in seven buildings. BD will continue to follow up the remaining cases.

Evaluation is being planned and the progress will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.





5 After-school care pilot scheme

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2012
(a four-school year programme)

Funding Provision

\$149.2 million

Beneficiary Statistics

30 207 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$96.61 million

Programme

Extend the after-school activities for Primary one to Secondary three students from low-income families
(the maximum subsidy for each project is \$500,000)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary one to Secondary three students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or full grant from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (expanded to cover Primary one to Secondary three students receiving half grant in 2013/14 school year); and
- participating schools or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have discretion to include needy students who do not meet the above criteria, but the number of these students should not exceed 25% of the total number of student beneficiaries.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in March 2015 which approved to extend the implementation of the scheme for the last time to the 2015/16 school year.

In the 2015/16 school year, a total of 89 schools and NGOs have joined the scheme.

6 Elderly dental assistance programme

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2012

(expanded in September 2015 to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) recipients, starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase)

Funding Provision

\$817.11 million

(including the provision for the expanded programme in the first three years)

Beneficiary Statistics

1 390 persons

Disbursements

Around \$10.16 million

Programme

Subsidy for needy elders with low income for removable dentures and other related dental services (a maximum subsidy of \$13,950 for dental services for each beneficiary, a referral fee of \$50 for each referral by non-governmental organisations, and an accompanying service fee of \$70 per hour for applicants who are users of the home care/ home help services (if applicable))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- (i) Aged 60 or above, being users of the “Integrated Home Care Services” or “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” or “Home Help Service” subvented by the Social Welfare Department and paying level 1 or level 2 fee charge of the said services, and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; or
- (ii) aged 80 or above and receiving OALA; and
- have not benefited from the Community Care Fund Elderly dental assistance programme or the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly.

Progress and Evaluation

1 607 eligible elders have been referred to receive the dental services under the programme.

Having regard to the progress of implementation of the expanded programme and the overall situation, consideration will be given to expanding the target beneficiaries to other age groups of OALA recipients progressively.

The interim evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in September 2013.





7 Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2012

(implemented a three-year enhanced scheme since October 2015)

Funding Provision

\$67.2 million

Beneficiary Statistics

1 594 owners' corporations

Disbursements

Around \$11.53 million

Programme

Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings (*Eligible owners' corporations can be granted a subsidy with the total amount capped at \$20,000 for relevant expenditure items on an accountable basis*)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Residential or composite buildings aged 30 years or above and with owners' corporations; and
- average rateable value of the residential units does not exceed \$120,000 for urban area and \$92,000 for New Territories.

Progress and Evaluation

Among the 4 500 eligible owners' corporations, about 2 925 have indicated their intention to make an application.

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in September 2015 which approved to implement the enhanced scheme for three years.



8 One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA

Implementation Date

2 December 2013 to
29 August 2014 (first launch)
2 January 2015 to
31 August 2015 (second launch)
(to be launched for the third time in January 2016)

Beneficiary Statistics

52 149 households (126 273 persons)
(first launch)
52 513 households (125 312 persons)
(second launch)
Around 72 100 households
(around 174 600 persons) are expected
(to be launched for the third time)

Funding Provision

\$404.21 million (first launch)
\$610.95 million (second launch)
Around \$655.39 million
(to be launched for the third time)

Disbursements

Around \$384.92 million
(first launch)
Around \$448.62 million
(second launch)

Programme

One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)
(first launched: a subsidy of \$3,500 for one-person household; \$7,000 for two-person household; and \$10,000 for three-or-more-person household)
(launched for the second time: a subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person household; \$8,000 for two-person household; \$11,000 for three-person household; and \$13,000 for four-or-more-person household)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons renting on a monthly basis private permanent housing, industrial buildings or commercial buildings; persons renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department's Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; homeless persons; or persons residing in vessels;
- household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits;
- not receiving CSSA; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in July 2015 which approved the detailed proposal of launching the programme for the third time.





9 Incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) to secure employment

Starting Date of Implementation

April 2014
(a three-year programme)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 050 persons (Note 1)

Funding Provision

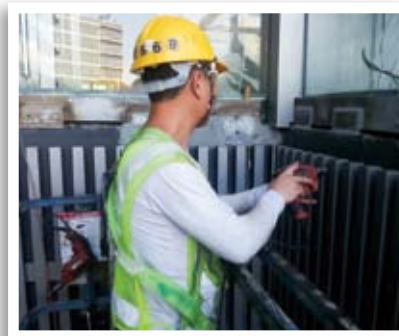
\$226.62 million

Disbursements

Around \$6.74 million (Note 2)

Programme

The earnings from employment exceeding the prescribed disregarded earnings limit (i.e. the earnings not disregarded) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme will be accumulated in the form of incentive payment. When the amount of incentive payment accumulated reaches the incentive target, the Community Care Fund (CCF) will release the full amount of the target incentive payment to the participants.



Major Eligibility Criteria

- CSSA recipients of the IEAPS.

Progress and Evaluation

A working group has been set up under the CCF Task Force to follow up the implementation progress of the incentive scheme and its evaluation study.

(Note 1: This is the number of CSSA participants randomly selected from IEAPS cases who agree to participate in the incentive scheme, which is also the target number of beneficiaries of the incentive scheme. As at 31 August 2015, 15 participants took up employment with assessable income equal to/exceeding their CSSA recognized needs, subsequent to which they left the CSSA net with the accumulated incentive payment disbursed to them by the Social Welfare Department.)

(Note 2: The disbursement is for payment of accumulated incentive payment to the eligible participants and service fees to the non-governmental organisations which assist in implementing the incentive scheme.)

10 Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low-income families

Starting Date of Implementation

June 2014
(a two-year programme)

Funding Provision

\$126 million

Beneficiary Statistics

1 995 carers

Disbursements

Around \$45.22 million

Programme

Living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low-income families (a monthly subsidy of \$2,000 would be given to each eligible carer who takes care of one elderly person and a maximum of \$4,000 each for those who take care of more than one elderly person at the same time)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- The elderly person(s) being taken care of should be living in Hong Kong, has/have been on the Central Waiting List (CWL) for subsidised long term care services on or before 31 December 2013, and is/are not using any residential care services;
- the carer is a Hong Kong resident, is capable of taking up the care-giving role, is not engaging in any form of employment relationship with the elderly person(s) whom he/she is taking care of, and is required to provide care-giving work of not less than the prescribed hours per month; and
- the carer is not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or Old Age Living Allowance and is having a monthly household income not exceeding 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

33 non-governmental organisations that operate District Elderly Community Centres and/or Neighbourhood Elderly Centres assist to provide support services to the carers under the pilot scheme.

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.





11 Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students

Starting Date of Implementation

2014/15 school year
(a three-school year programme)

Funding Provision

\$137 million

Beneficiary Statistics

5 995 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$33.26 million

Programme

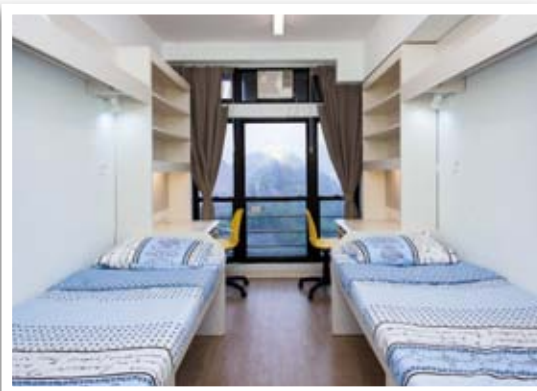
Provide hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students to meet student hostel expenses
(each eligible student will be offered a hostel subsidy up to \$8,000 per year. The maximum amount in 2015/16 and 2016/17 is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))

Major Eligibility Criteria


- Full-time undergraduates of public-funded or self-financing locally-accredited programmes at degree level;
- eligible for assistance under the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students and have passed the income test and asset test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency;
- resided in student hostels provided by their institutions; and
- confirmed by their institutions to have resided in student hostels in the semesters of the implementation period.

Progress and Evaluation


The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



12 Increasing the academic expenses grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students



Starting Date of Implementation 2014/15 school year (a three-school year programme)	Funding Provision \$151 million
Beneficiary Statistics 27 147 person-times	Disbursements Around \$39.85 million



Programme

Additional academic expenses grant for eligible recipients of assistance under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP) *(each eligible student will be provided an additional academic expenses grant up to \$2,000 per year. The maximum amount in 2015/16 and 2016/17 is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))*

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Full-time students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing programmes at sub-degree or degree level; and
- eligible for assistance under the FASP and have passed the income test and asset test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.





13 Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

Starting Date of Implementation

End July 2015
(a one-off subsidy programme)

Funding Provision

\$501.2 million

Beneficiary Statistics

102 462 persons

Disbursements

Around \$368.86 million

Programme

To provide one-off financial assistance to needy families with school children before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme
(to disburse a one-off subsidy of \$3,600 to each eligible primary and secondary student)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary and secondary students receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

Progress and Evaluation

Not applicable (Note)



(Note: As the programme aims to provide one-off financial assistance to needy families with school children before the launch of the LIFA Scheme and the Labour and Welfare Bureau is undertaking preparation work for the LIFA Scheme, the Commission on Poverty agreed at its meeting in March 2015 that evaluation on the effectiveness of the programme would not be necessary.)

14 Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators

Starting Date of Implementation 2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)	Funding Provision \$218.84 million
Beneficiary Statistics About 9 000 students are expected every year	Disbursements (as the programme has just been rolled out, data is not yet available)

Programme

Cash subsidy to ordinary schools admitting relatively large number of students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs to designate a teacher for coordinating the support measures related to SEN
(an annual subsidy of \$0.54 million and \$0.47 million is provided to each eligible secondary school and primary school respectively. Experts will be commissioned to provide an evaluation of the pilot programme and provide professional development programme for SEN coordinators (SENCOs))

Major Eligibility Criteria

Public sector ordinary secondary and primary schools meeting the following two criteria in the 2014/15 school year:

- the number of financially-needy students should account for at least 55% of the total number of students of the school (including students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, full grant or half grant from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency); and
- should have at least 50 students with SEN in need of Tier-2 or Tier-3 support under the 3-Tier Intervention Model.



Progress and Evaluation

The Education Bureau has issued letters to invite eligible schools to participate in the pilot programme, and a briefing was conducted on 15 May 2015 for the schools concerned. As at 31 August 2015, 59 primary schools and 65 secondary schools participated in the pilot programme.

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.





15 Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes

Starting Date of Implementation

2015/16 school year
(a three-school year programme)

Funding Provision

\$12.46 million

Beneficiary Statistics

Over 540 persons are expected every year

Disbursements

(as the programme has just been rolled out, data is not yet available)

Programme

Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes

(an additional academic expenses grant up to \$8,000 for each eligible student per year.

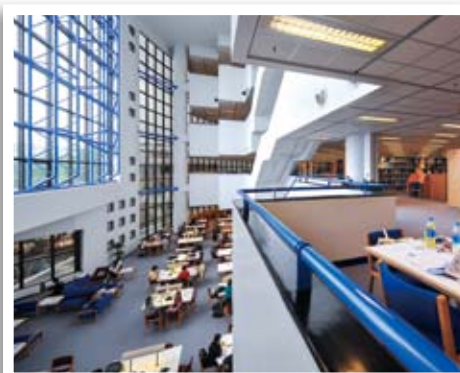
The maximum amount in 2016/17 and 2017/18 is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Students who are eligible for assistance under the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students and have passed the income test and asset test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency; and
- must be identified with at least one type of SEN including learning difficulties, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and speech and language impairment.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Assistance Programmes Regularised / Completed

The Community Care Fund implements measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that have been proven effective for incorporation into the regular assistance programmes. So far, 11 programmes have been regularised* while four programmes have been completed#. Details are set out in the following pages.

Note:

- Assistance programmes marked with “*” have been regularised.
- Assistance programmes marked with “#” have been completed.





1 Subsidy for patients who marginally fall outside the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs*

Implementation Date

January to August 2012
(regularised with effect from 1 September 2012)

Funding Provision

\$4.278 million

Beneficiary Statistics

280 person-times

Disbursements

\$4.278 million



Programme

Subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority who marginally fall outside the SF safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs
(to subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism was adopted by applying a more relaxed patient contribution ratio than that for the SF i.e. the patient's maximum contribution ratio is 20%.

2 Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language examinations*

Implementation Date

September 2011 to
September 2013
(regularised with effect from
26 September 2013)

Funding Provision

\$0.502 million

Beneficiary Statistics

428 persons

Disbursements

\$0.452 million



Programme

Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations
(reimbursement of relevant examination fees to beneficiaries on an accountable basis)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or Hospital Authority Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or
- household income below 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.





3 Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses*

Implementation Date

March 2012 to September 2013
(regularised with effect from
26 September 2013)

Funding Provision

\$0.128 million

Beneficiary Statistics

171 persons

Disbursements

\$0.061 million



Programme

Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses
(a subsidy of \$350 to \$700 is provided for participating in dedicated language courses of the Employees Retraining Board)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or Hospital Authority Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or
- household income below 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

4 Subsidy for Tenants Purchase Scheme flat owners on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance*

Implementation Date

September 2011

(a one-off subsidy programme which has been regularised with effect from 1 April 2014)

Funding Provision

\$1.73 million

Beneficiary Statistics

825 households

Disbursements

\$1.65 million



Programme

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households who have been owner-occupiers of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above and not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme
(a subsidy of \$2,000 per household)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- CSSA households meeting the relevant criteria as at 1 July 2011.





5 Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing

Implementation Date

9 July 2012 to 31 January 2013
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Funding Provision

\$11.23 million

Beneficiary Statistics

2 093 households
(2 595 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$10.38 million



Programme

Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing
(a subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person elderly household; \$8,000 for two-person elderly household; and \$12,000 for three-or-more-person elderly household)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Elderly households aged 65 or above;
- not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.

6 Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed[#]

Implementation Date

8 October 2012 to 8 April 2013
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Funding Provision

\$155.47 million

Beneficiary Statistics

25 764 households
(59 010 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$150.18 million



Programme

Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed
(a subsidy of \$3,000 for one-person household; \$6,000 for two-person household; and \$8,000 for three-or-more-person household)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons renting on a monthly basis rooms/cubicles, cocklofts or bedspaces in private permanent housing; persons renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department's Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; or homeless persons;
- household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits;
- not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.





7 School-based fund (cross-boundary learning activities)

Implementation Date

July 2011 to June 2014
(completed)

Funding Provision

\$191.49 million

Beneficiary Statistics

74 115 persons

Disbursements

Around \$185.88 million



Programme

Subsidise primary and secondary school students from low-income families to participate in cross-boundary learning activities/competitions
(a subsidy of not more than \$3,000 for each student beneficiary to participate in cross-boundary learning activities and competitions respectively)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- students receiving full or half grant from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency; or
- students meeting the “financially needy” criteria as determined by individual schools.

8 Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at schools*

Implementation Date

September 2011 to August 2014
(regularised with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Funding Provision

\$434.59 million

Beneficiary Statistics

178 076 person-times
(including 56 387, 60 386 and 61 303 beneficiaries in the school years of 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively)

Disbursements

Around \$430.2 million



Programme

Subsidy to meet lunch expenses for students from low-income families studying in whole-day primary schools (*the subsidy level is determined by the actual fee charged by lunch suppliers and schools pay the lunch charges to the lunch suppliers directly on behalf of the eligible students*)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary students in receipt of full grant assistance from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency studying in whole-day public sector schools (including special schools) or primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and having lunch as arranged by their schools.





9 Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme*

Implementation Date

October 2013 to August 2014
(regularised with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Funding Provision

\$263.16 million

Beneficiary Statistics

312 344 persons
(including 235 278 students meeting the eligibility criteria for the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) under the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency and 77 066 students on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA))

Disbursements

Around \$263.05 million
(including \$186.05 million disbursed by SFO and \$77 million disbursed by the Social Welfare Department)



Programme

Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the STAS
(an additional grant of \$1,000 or \$500, depending on the different conditions)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary and secondary students receiving full and half grant under the STAS of the SFO (an additional grant of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for each student); and
- primary and secondary students on CSSA (an additional grant of \$1,000 for each student).

10 Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level*

Implementation Date

October 2013 to August 2014
(regularised with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Funding Provision

\$50.6 million

Beneficiary Statistics

Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme:
2 779 persons

Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant:
4 524 persons

(including 2 819 Vocational Training Council (VTC) students and 1 705 Yi Jin Diploma students)

Disbursements

Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme: \$43.02 million

Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant: \$7.58 million

(including \$4.65 million for VTC students and \$2.93 million for Yi Jin Diploma students)



Programme

Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level (including the "Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme" and the "Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant")

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Target beneficiaries of the "Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme" are students enrolling in eligible courses below sub-degree level;
- target beneficiaries of the "Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant" are students enrolling in eligible courses with duration of one year or above; the grant amount will be on par with the enhanced flat-rate grant receivable by eligible primary and secondary students after enhancement (i.e. \$2,094 and \$1,047 for each full-grant and half-grant student respectively) in the 2013/14 school year.





11 Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services*

Implementation Date

December 2011 to September 2014
(regularised with effect from 1 October 2014)

Funding Provision

\$62.89 million

Beneficiary Statistics

2 840 persons

Disbursements

Around \$59.9 million



Programme

Training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services (*a monthly subsidy of not more than \$2,615*)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- On the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services on or before 31 January 2014; and
- household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

12 Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment*

Implementation Date

January 2013 to October 2014
(regularised with effect from
1 November 2014)

Funding Provision

\$7.92 million

Beneficiary Statistics

260 persons

Disbursements

Around \$7.54 million



Programme

Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment (according to the monthly household income and annual household disposable financial resources, the subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" (\$2,500 or \$2,000 per month); "three-quarters grant" (\$1,875 or \$1,500 per month) or "half grant" (\$1,250 or \$1,000 per month))

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Renting respiratory support medical equipment without any relevant assistance, at the same time living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.





13 Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment*

Implementation Date

September 2013 to October 2014
(regularised with effect from
1 November 2014)

Funding Provision

\$2.07 million

Beneficiary Statistics

175 persons

Disbursements

Around \$1.97 million



Programme

Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment (according to the monthly household income, the subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" (a maximum of \$2,000 per month); "three-quarters grant" (a maximum of \$1,500 per month) or "half grant" (a maximum of \$1,000 per month))

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Using respiratory support medical equipment without receiving any relevant subsidy to purchase related medical consumables, at the same time living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.



14 Subsidy for elders who are on the waiting list of Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning and escorting services for medical consultations

Implementation Date

October 2011 to December 2014
(completed)

Funding Provision

\$15.256 million

Beneficiary Statistics

1 341 persons

Disbursements

Around \$10.26 million



Programme

Subsidy for elders aged 65 or above from low-income families who are on the waiting list of Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning and escorting services for medical consultations
(a monthly subsidy of not more than \$560)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged 65 or above; living in the community; and have been on the waiting list of IHCS (Ordinary Cases) on or before 31 October 2012; and
- household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.





15 Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students*

Implementation Date

October 2013 to July 2015
(regularised with effect from the 2015/16 school year)

Funding Provision

\$3.64 million

Beneficiary Statistics

3 463 persons

Disbursements

Around \$3.36 million



Programme

Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students
(the enhanced travel subsidy is 50% of the amount of travel subsidy an eligible student can receive on top of the student travel subsidy disbursed)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Needy special school students from Primary one to Secondary six who are physically disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, mildly, moderately or severely intellectually disabled, and are receiving full grant or half grant under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.



Assistance Programme to be Re-launched Soon

Third launch of the One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA

Launching the programme for the third time to provide a one-off subsidy to persons not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (i.e. known colloquially as the “n-have-nots”) to relieve their financial pressure. The subsidy level for households of one to four members will remain unchanged (i.e. \$4,000 for one-person households; \$8,000 for two-person households; \$11,000 for three-person households; and \$13,000 for four-person households). An additional tier of subsidy of \$14,000 will be introduced for five-or-more-person households. The funding provision is \$655.39 million and it is estimated that about 72 100 households will benefit. Applications will be received in phases starting from January 2016.



Way Forward

Over the past four years, the Community Care Fund (CCF) rolled out various assistance programmes which is a manifestation of the flexibility of CCF operation. In addition, through the continuous review and evaluation mechanism under the CCF, relevant Government departments/ organisations responsible for implementing the programmes could draw on experience gained and collect data as soon as possible to determine which programmes need to be revised or extended, or have been proven effective for consideration of incorporating into the Government's regular assistance programmes.

The CCF will continue to plug the gaps in the existing system and, taking into account the views of the public and stakeholders, launch more programmes to provide appropriate assistance to the underprivileged and low-income families.



We would like to acknowledge the provision of some photographs
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(in alphabetical order)

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hospital Authority





Community Care Fund

Website: <http://www.communitycarefund.hk>

**Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
certified paper is used**