

Community Care Fund



Commission on Poverty
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Community Care Fund: Introduction	1
Community Care Fund Task Force: Membership	3
Community Care Fund Task Force: Terms of Reference	4
Community Care Fund: Assistance Programmes	5
Medical – providing drug assistance and medical services for low-income people	
(1) Subsidy for patients for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the Samaritan Fund	7
(2) Subsidy for patients who marginally fall outside the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs	8
(3) Elderly dental assistance programme	9
Education – providing assistance to students from low-income families, broadening their horizons and encouraging upward mobility	
(4) School-based fund (cross-boundary learning activities)	11
(5) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at schools	12
(6) After-school care pilot scheme	13
Housing – relieving economic pressure in relation to housing needs	
(7) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients who are owners of Tenant Purchase Scheme flats	15
(8) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients living in rented private housing	16
(9) 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	17
(10) Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing	18
(11) Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed	19
Welfare – providing targeted assistance to designated groups	
(12) Special care subsidy for the severely disabled	21
(13) 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	22
(14) Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services	23
(15) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment	24
Home Affairs – facilitating the integration into the community by new arrivals and ethnic minorities, improving building management	
(16) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language examinations	26
(17) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses	27
(18) Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings	28
Assistance programmes to be rolled out soon	29
Way Forward	31

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.

In late 2010, the then Chief Executive appointed the Steering Committee on the CCF as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration to oversee and co-ordinate the work of the CCF. An Executive Committee and four Sub-committees (Education, Home Affairs, Medical and Welfare) were set up under the Steering Committee to support the operation of the CCF.

The terms of the above-mentioned committees/sub-committees ended in end 2012 and the CCF has since 2013 been integrated into the work of the Commission on Poverty (CoP) as reinstated by the current-term Government. 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 reviewing 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, and the CCF also accepts donations from the community. As at end August 2013, the balance of the CCF is around \$20.9 billion.

Community Care Fund Task Force: Membership

Chairperson

Dr Law Chi-kwong, SBS, JP

Vice-chairperson

Mr Bunny Chan Chung-bun, SBS, JP

Members of the Commission on Poverty

Hon Cheung Kwok-che

Mr Chua Hoi-wai

Mr Ho Hei-wah, BBS

Hon Michael Tien Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Co-opted Members

Miss Ophelia Chan Chiu-ling, BBS

Ms Chang Siu-wah

Dr Cheung Wai-lun, JP

Dr Saimond Ip

Mr Frederick Lai Wing-hoi, JP

Mr Lau Ming-wai, BBS, JP

Dr Sigmund Leung Sai-man, JP

Dr Donald Li Kwok-tung, SBS, JP

Ms Nancy Tsang Lan-see, JP

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

Since its establishment, the Community Care Fund (CCF) has rolled out 18 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 successfully identified and provided with immediate assistance, and more than 200 000 person-times (as at end August 2013) have benefited under these programmes. The Commission on Poverty has also endorsed to launch 6 assistance programmes for implementation soon, and the total commitments for the above 24 programmes exceed \$2.9 billion. Brief introduction of the programmes and the statistics as at 31 August 2013 are set out in the following pages.

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.

Medical

providing drug assistance and medical services for low-income people



(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

(current funding provision for 3 years)

Funding Provision

\$214.13 million

(including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and programme (2) below)

Beneficiary Statistics

1 545 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$138.41 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 subsequently.

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

(2) 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

Funding Provision

\$4.293 million

Beneficiary Statistics

281 person-times

(the programme ceased operation on 31 August 2012 and these are the actual statistics)

Disbursements

\$4.293 million

(this is the actual expenditure of the programme)

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%.

Progress and Evaluation

The programme had been incorporated into the regular mechanism of the SF with effect from 1 September 2012.

(3) Elderly dental assistance programme



Starting Date of Implementation

September 2012

(expected to be a two-year programme)

Funding Provision

\$100 million

Beneficiary Statistics

452 persons

Disbursements

Around \$3.08 million

Programme

Subsidy for needy elders with low income for dentures and other related dental services

(A maximum subsidy of \$9,095 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 based on the actual duration of accompanying service provided (if applicable))

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged 60 or above;
- not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; and
- user of the Integrated Home Care Services or Enhanced Home and Community Care Services subvented by the Social Welfare Department as at 31 December 2012 and are paying level 1 or level 2 fee charge of the above services.

Progress and Evaluation

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

The Community Care Fund Task Force has set up a working group to review the eligibility criteria of the programme, taking into account the progress of implementation and the experience gained.

Education

providing assistance to students from low-income families, broadening their horizons and encouraging upward mobility



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



Starting Date of Implementation

July 2011

(a three-year programme)

Funding Provision

\$194.66 million

Beneficiary Statistics

26 066 persons

Disbursements

Around \$59.38 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 benefited student to participate in cross-boundary learning activities and competitions respectively)

Major Eligibility Criteria

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

Progress and Evaluation

The programme was initially set up to subsidise eligible students to participate in cross-boundary learning activities. The scope of the programme was expanded in July 2012 to subsidise eligible students to represent Hong Kong to take part in cross-boundary competitions.

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

(5) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at schools



Starting Date of Implementation

September 2011

(a three-school year programme)

Funding Provision

\$529.207 million

Beneficiary Statistics

56 387 persons

(This is the number of benefited students in the 2011/12 school year. The estimated number of benefited students in the 2012/13 school year is 62 000.)

Disbursements

Around \$306.2 million

Programme

Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families

(The subsidy level is determined by the actual fee charged by lunch suppliers and the subsidy is directly paid to lunch suppliers through the schools)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Whole-day primary school students receiving full grant from Student Financial Assistance Agency and having lunch as arranged by their schools.

Progress and Evaluation

The former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) was briefed on the evaluation results in May 2012. It supported the regularisation of the programme by the Education Bureau. As the Government is studying the mode of operation of the programme after it is incorporated into regular assistance programme, the CCF agreed to continue the provision of subsidy to eligible primary school students in 2012/13 and 2013/14 school years.

(6) After-school care pilot scheme



Starting Date of Implementation

August 2012

(a two-school year programme)

Funding Provision

\$69.2 million

Beneficiary Statistics

5 473 persons

Disbursements

Around \$27.55 million

Programme

Co-ordinate and integrate after-school learning and supplementary activities for Primary one to Secondary three students from low-income families, including the addition of new and appropriate elements to extend their after-school activities

(The subsidy cap 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 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 programme has been extended to 2013/14 school year. The assessment panel conducted a meeting on 3 July to consider the proposals submitted by schools and NGOs.

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

Housing

relieving economic pressure in relation to housing needs



(7) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients who are owners of Tenant Purchase Scheme flats



Implementation Date

September 2011

(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Funding Provision

\$1.73 million

Beneficiary Statistics

825 households

Disbursements

\$1.65 million

Programme

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients who are owners of Tenant 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.

Progress and Evaluation

The former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund was briefed on the evaluation results in May 2012 and it supported the programme's regularisation by the Social Welfare Department.

The Government is now planning for the programme's incorporation into regular assistance programme.

(8) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients living in rented private housing



Starting Date of Implementation

October 2011 (first launched)

(re-launch of the programme is expected in late September 2013)

Funding Provision

First launched: \$33.671 million

(re-launched: \$56.81 million)

Beneficiary Statistics

22 605 households

(first launched)

Disbursements

\$32.085 million

(first launched)

Programme

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients living in rented private housing paying rents which exceed the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme

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

(When the programme is re-launched: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)

Major Eligibility Criteria

First launched:

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

Re-launched:

- CSSA households meeting the relevant criteria as at a specific date.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty (CoP) in May 2013 and the CoP approved to re-launch the programme.

(9) 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

140 households
(204 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 the 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 (MMDHI) for one-person households, and not exceeding 75% of the MMDHI for two-or-more-person households.

Progress and Evaluation

BD has inspected 30 target industrial buildings, and identified suspected cases of unauthorised sub-divided units in 10 of them. BD has taken enforcement action against these cases and enforcement action was completed in one building. BD will continue to follow up the enforcement actions in other industrial buildings.

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

(10) Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing



Implementation Date

9 July 2012 to 31 January 2013
(a one-off subsidy programme)

Funding Provision

\$11.89 million

Beneficiary Statistics

2 095 households
(2 599 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$10.4 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 limit; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.

Progress and Evaluation

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

(11) Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed



Implementation Date

8 October 2012 to 8 April 2013
(a one-off subsidy programme)

Funding Provision

\$174.43 million

Beneficiary Statistics

25 769 households
(59 006 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$150.16 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 limit;
- not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.

Progress and Evaluation

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

Welfare

providing targeted assistance to designated groups



(12) Special care subsidy for the severely disabled



Starting Date of Implementation

September 2011

(first time of implementation)

November 2012

(extension of implementation)

(further extension is expected in
December 2013)

Funding Provision

\$142.68 million

Beneficiary Statistics

3 109 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$60.41 million

Programme

Subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below 60 from families with financial difficulties who are non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients, requiring constant attendance and living in the community

(A monthly subsidy of not more than \$2,000)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged below 60 and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme as at 31 July 2013;
- living in the community as at 31 July 2013; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI).

Progress and Evaluation

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

In August 2013, the CoP approved to extend again the implementation of the programme for one year and relax the income limit to 150% of the MMDHI for the new round of applications. According to the monthly family income of the applicants, the three levels of subsidy are “full grant” (\$2,000), “three-quarters” (\$1,500) or “half grant” (\$1,000).

(13) 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



Starting Date of Implementation

October 2011

(first time of implementation)

December 2012

(extension of implementation)

Funding Provision

\$15.256 million

Beneficiary Statistics

1 341 persons

Disbursements

Around \$3.97 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 for IHCS (Ordinary Cases) on or before 31 October 2012; and
- household income not exceeding 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

The former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund approved in November 2012 to extend the implementation of the programme (the new round of applications closed in end March 2013) and the provision of subsidy for existing beneficiaries. Eligible elders may receive the subsidy until 31 March 2014 the latest.

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

(14) Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services



Starting Date of Implementation

December 2011

(first time of implementation)

November 2012

(extension of implementation)

July 2013

(further extension of implementation)

Funding Provision

\$68.145 million

Beneficiary Statistics

1 815 persons

Disbursements

Around \$25.75 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 30 June 2013; and
- household income not exceeding 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

The former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) was briefed on the evaluation results in May 2012 and it supported the programme's regularisation by the Social Welfare Department, which is now being studied by the Government.

The CCF Task Force endorsed in July 2013 to extend again the implementation of the programme (the new round of applications will close on 31 October 2013).

(15) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment



Starting Date of Implementation

Late January 2013

(extension of implementation is expected in October 2013)

Funding Provision

\$6.61 million

Beneficiary Statistics

28 persons

Disbursements

Around \$0.14 million

Programme

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

(According to the family monthly income and the annual household disposable financial resources, the three levels of subsidy are “full grant” (\$2,500 or \$2,000 per month), “three-quarters” (\$1,875 or \$1,500 per month) and “half grant” (\$1,250 or \$1,000 per month))

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme as at 30 June 2013;
- persons who have to rent the respiratory support medical equipment without any relevant assistance, and are still receiving HDA under SSA Scheme; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) and the annual household disposable financial resources do not exceed \$180,000.

Progress and Evaluation

The Commission on Poverty (CoP) approved in July 2013 to enhance the programme (including lifting the age limit for the target beneficiaries and extending the implementation of the programme (the new round of applications will close on 31 December 2013)). The CoP also approved in August to relax the income limit to 150% of the MMDHI for the new round of applications. The progress of evaluation will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Home Affairs

facilitating the integration into the community by new arrivals and ethnic minorities, improving building management



(16) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language examinations



Starting Date of Implementation

September 2011
(a two-year programme)

Funding Provision

\$1.05 million

Beneficiary Statistics

373 persons

Disbursements

Around \$0.4 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 the 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.

Progress and Evaluation

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

The programme will be incorporated into the regular support services of the Home Affairs Department from late September.

(17) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses



Starting Date of Implementation

March 2012

Funding Provision

\$0.5 million

Beneficiary Statistics

109 persons

Disbursements

Around \$0.04 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.

Progress and Evaluation

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

The programme will be incorporated into the regular support services of the Home Affairs Department from late September.

(18) Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings



Starting Date of Implementation

October 2012
(a three-year programme)

Funding Provision

\$67.2 million

Beneficiary Statistics

322 owners' corporations

Disbursements

Around \$1.14 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
- 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 4 400 eligible owners' corporations, about 2 740 have indicated their intention to make an application.

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

Assistance programmes to be rolled out soon

(1) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment

- This programme provides persons with severe physical disabilities requiring constant attendance and living in the community, who are not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) but are from financially vulnerable households, with a special subsidy for a maximum of 12 months (a maximum of \$2,000 per month) for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment. The funding provision is \$10.9 million and the estimated number of beneficiaries is around 500 persons.

(2) Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students

- This programme provides eligible needy students from special schools with an extra 50% travel subsidy on top of the Student Travel Subsidy as disbursed by the Student Financial Assistance Agency. The funding provision is \$3.27 million and the estimated number of beneficiaries is around 1 700 students in a school year.

(3) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme

- This programme provides students who are eligible for subsidy under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme with an additional \$500 or \$1,000 flat rate grant. The enhancement is also applicable to primary and secondary school students receiving CSSA. The funding provision is \$292.36 million and the estimated number of beneficiaries is around 348 000 students.

(4) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level

- This programme implements a tuition fee reimbursement scheme for eligible students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level for full or half fee reimbursement, and provides eligible students with a flat rate academic expense grant. The funding provision is \$64.89 million and the estimated number of beneficiaries is around 8 000 students.

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

- This programmes provides assistance to persons who could not benefit from the Budget's relief measures to relieve their financial pressure. The funding provision is \$638.33 million and the estimated number of beneficiaries is more than 78 700 households (over 210 000 persons).

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

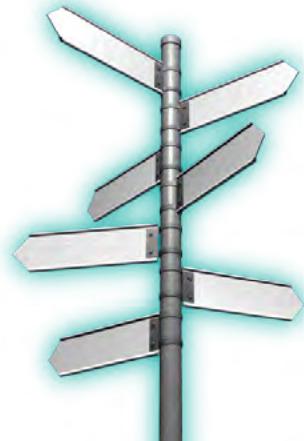
- In the form of incentive payment, the amount of earnings from employment of the CSSA recipients above the current maximum amount of the disregarded earnings, which will not be disregarded under the CSSA Scheme, will be accumulated up to the target amount for the release of the incentive payment. The CSSA recipients will then be given the incentive payment from the Community Care Fund so as to increase their enthusiasm and incentive to work. The funding provision of this programme is \$226.62 million and the estimated number of beneficiaries is 2 050 persons.

Way Forward

Over the past two 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 incorporation into the Government's regular assistance programme.

Following the additional injection of \$15 billion into the CCF in 2013, the capacity of the CCF to plug the gaps in the existing system will be enhanced, and more assistance programmes and pilot schemes will be launched to help those who are facing economic difficulties. In addition, the implementation of programmes which are proved to be effective but have yet to be incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme for the time being will also be continued so that assistance can be provided to the needy continuously.

The CCF will take into account the views of the public and stakeholders and continue to launch more programmes to provide appropriate assistance to the underprivileged and low-income families.



We would like to acknowledge the provision of some
photographs by the following organisations:

(in alphabetical order)

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

Hong Kong Housing Authority

Hospital Authority



Community Care Fund
Website: <http://www.communitycarefund.hk>