

Community Care Fund



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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 consider implementing measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that can be considered for incorporation into its 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.



Community Care Fund: Operating Principles

The operation of the Community Care Fund (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 business sector. The CCF also accepts donations from the community. As at end August 2016, the balance of the CCF is around \$19.732 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

Mr 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, BBS, 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 approved 36 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. The total commitment is about \$7.2 billion. So far, more than 1.41 million people have benefited under these programmes. People outside the existing safety net or the coverage of the Government's short-term relief measures have been identified and provided with assistance. So far, 11 effective programmes have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes. These programmes involve an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$700 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 eligible new arrivals.

In last year, the Commission on Poverty approved six new assistance programmes under the CCF, including providing a one-off grant for kindergarten students from needy families in the 2016/17 school year to cover their school-related expenses before the implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy in the 2017/18 school year; implementing a pilot scheme to provide free cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls from eligible low-income families; implementing three pilot schemes in relation to persons with disabilities, i.e. living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities, providing further disregarded earnings for recipients with disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, and providing a subsidy for eligible persons with disabilities who are receiving Higher Disability Allowance and engaging in paid employment to hire carers, and implementing a pilot scheme to enhance the dementia support services for the elderly at the community level through a medical-social collaboration model. In addition, the CCF also launched the "One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA" programme for the third time, and enhanced or extended several programmes so that the assistance can be provided in a more effective manner.

Assistance Programmes Incorporated into the Government's Regular Assistance Programmes



The Community Care Fund implements measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that are effective for incorporation into its regular assistance programmes. So far, 11 programmes have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes. Details are set out in the following pages.

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
(incorporated into the SF 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
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 26 September 2013)

Beneficiary Statistics

428 persons

Disbursements

\$0.452 million

Funding Provision

\$0.502 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
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 26 September 2013)

Beneficiary Statistics

171 persons

Disbursements

\$0.061 million

Funding Provision

\$0.128 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 incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 April 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

825 households

Disbursements

\$1.65 million

Funding Provision

\$1.73 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 to meet lunch expenses at schools

Implementation Date

September 2011 to August 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme 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.



6

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

Implementation Date

October 2013 to August 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Funding Provision

\$263.16 million

Beneficiary Statistics

312 339 persons
(including 235 279 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 77 060 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).



7

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

Implementation Date

October 2013 to August 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme 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.



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

Implementation Date

December 2011 to September 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 October 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 840 persons

Disbursements

Around \$59.9 million

Funding Provision

\$62.89 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.



9

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

Implementation Date

January 2013 to October 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

260 persons

Disbursements

Around \$7.64 million

Funding Provision

\$8.01 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.



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
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

175 persons

Disbursements

Around \$2 million

Funding Provision

\$2.1 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.



11

Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students

Implementation Date

October 2013 to July 2015
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2015/16 school year)

Beneficiary Statistics

3 463 persons

Disbursements

Around \$3.36 million

Funding Provision

\$3.47 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 Programmes Completed



Since the establishment of the Community Care Fund, six programmes have been completed. Details are set out in the following pages.

1

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

\$11.21 million

Beneficiary Statistics

2 089 households
(2 590 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$10.36 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.



2

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

\$155.38 million

Beneficiary Statistics

25 752 households
(58 984 persons)

Disbursements

Around \$150.09 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.



3

School-based fund (cross-boundary learning activities)

Implementation Date

July 2011 to June 2014
(completed)

Funding Provision

\$191.47 million

Beneficiary Statistics

74 115 persons

Disbursements

Around \$185.85 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.



4

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)

Beneficiary Statistics

1 341 persons

Funding Provision

\$10.78 million

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.



5

After-school care pilot scheme

Implementation Date

September 2012 to July 2016
(completed)

Funding Provision

\$136.33 million

Beneficiary Statistics

39 421 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$123.59 million

Programme

Extend the after-school activities for Primary one to Secondary three students from low-income families
(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 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 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.



6

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

Implementation Date

July 2015 to July 2016
(completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

129 200 persons

Funding Provision

\$501.2 million

Disbursements

Around \$465.12 million

Programme

To provide one-off financial assistance to needy families with school children prior to the implementation 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.



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 these 18 programmes 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 (SF)

Starting Date of Implementation

August 2011

Funding Provision

\$572.88 million

(current funding provision for 6 years)
(including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and those of the programme on page 7 of this booklet)

Beneficiary Statistics

6 471 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$490.7 million

Programme

Subsidy for patients of Hospital Authority for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the 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 the coverage was expanded in August 2013, August 2015 and August 2016 respectively. With effect from the sixth year of operation (i.e. 1 August 2016), the programme subsidises 13 specified self-financed cancer drugs for 10 types of cancer.

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 and will be further extended in November 2016)

Beneficiary Statistics

9 243 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$191.93 million

Funding Provision

\$341.76 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 2015; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the relevant 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 2016 to extend again the implementation of the programme in November 2016 to provide a maximum of 24 months of subsidy.



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)
(extension of implementation in September 2016)

Funding Provision

\$33.671 million (first launch)
\$53.77 million (second launch)
\$46.83 million (third launch)
\$51.5 million (fourth launch)
(additional funding provision of around 50.91 million for extension of implementation)

Beneficiary Statistics

22 605 households (first launch)
Around 17 770 households (second launch)
Around 14 940 households (third launch)
Around 14 280 households (fourth launch)
(around 15 130 households are expected for extension of implementation)

Disbursements

\$32.085 million (first launch)
Around \$51.3 million (second launch)
Around \$44.58 million (third launch)
Around \$44.87 million (fourth launch)
(as extension of implementation has just started, data is not yet available)

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

(second to fourth launch and extension of implementation: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- The major eligibility criterion for the extended programme is CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceeded the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2016.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in September 2016.

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

Beneficiary Statistics

143 households (211 persons)

Funding Provision

\$4.43 million

Disbursements

Around \$0.4 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 (MMDHI) for one-person households; and not exceeding 75% of the MMDHI for two-or-more-person households.

Progress and Evaluation

BD has inspected 118 target industrial buildings, and has so far identified cases of unauthorised units for domestic use in 22 of them, including sub-divided units. BD has taken enforcement action against these cases and enforcement action has been completed in 14 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

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; the second phase of the expanded programme rolled out on 3 October 2016 covers those aged 75 or above)

Funding Provision

\$817.11 million

(including the funding provision for the expanded programme)

Beneficiary Statistics

10 248 persons

Disbursements

Around \$97.26 million



Programme

Subsidy for needy elders with low-income for removable dentures and other related dental services (a maximum subsidy of \$14,390 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 75 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 under the Department of Health.

Progress and Evaluation

13 891 eligible elders have been referred to receive the dental services.

The second phase of the expanded programme rolled out on 3 October 2016 to cover those elders who are OALA recipients at the age of 75 or above. Having regard to the progress of implementation of the second phase of the expanded programme and the overall situation, consideration will be given to expanding the target beneficiaries further to other age groups of OALA recipients.

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

6

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

2 203 owners' corporations

Disbursements

Around \$19.64 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, around 2 925 have indicated intention to submit 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.

7

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

Starting Date of Implementation

2 December 2013 (first launch)
2 January 2015 (second launch)
4 January 2016 (third launch)

Funding Provision

\$403.85 million (first launch)
\$549.57 million (second launch)
\$655.39 million (third launch)

Beneficiary Statistics

52 102 households (126 152 persons) (first launch)
61 624 households (149 128 persons) (second launch)
62 264 households (around 152 363 persons) (third launch)

Disbursements

Around \$384.55 million (first launch)
Around \$531.41 million (second launch)
Around \$543.89 million (third 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)

(second launch: 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)

(third launch: a subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person household; \$8,000 for two-person household; \$11,000 for three-person household; \$13,000 for four-person household; and \$14,000 for five-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 September 2016.

8

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 pilot scheme)

Funding Provision

\$226.62 million

Beneficiary Statistics

2 050 persons (Note 1)

Disbursements

Around \$12.26 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 2016, 2 participants accumulated the target amount of incentive payment and 40 participants took up employment with income equal to/exceeding their CSSA recognised needs, subsequent to which they left the CSSA net. The accumulated incentive payment was disbursed to these participants 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.)

9

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

Starting Date of Implementation

June 2014

(Phase I of the pilot scheme completed in September 2016 and Phase II to commence in October 2016 for two years)

Funding Provision

\$314.76 million (for two phases)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 001 carers (Phase I)

Around 4 000 carers are expected for two phases

Disbursements

Around \$86.25 million

Programme

Living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families to help supplement their living expenses

(a monthly allowance of \$2,000 would be given to each eligible carer who takes care of one elderly person and a maximum of \$4,000 per month each for those who take care of more than one elderly person at the same time) (Note)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Elderly person(s) being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong(HK), has/have been on the Central Waiting List for subsidised long-term care services on or before 29 February 2016, and must be living in the community without using any residential care services or undergoing long-term hospitalisation;
- the carer must be a HK resident living in HK, must be capable of taking up the care-giving role, has not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the elderly person(s) under his/her care, and is required to provide care-giving work of not less than the specified hours per month; and
- the carer must not be a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or Old Age Living Allowance and is having a monthly household income not exceeding 75% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

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

(Note: 43 non-governmental organisations that operate District Elderly Community Centres and/or Neighbourhood Elderly Centres help provide support services under Phase II of the pilot scheme.)

10

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

12 059 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$68.92 million

Programme

Provide hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students to meet student hostel expenses (in 2014/15 school year, each eligible student was offered a hostel subsidy up to \$8,000 per year. The maximum amount in 2015/16 and 2016/17 school year is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Full-time undergraduates of publicly-funded or self-financing locally-accredited programmes at degree level;
- eligible applicants of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students and have passed the means 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.

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)

Beneficiary Statistics

48 956 person-times

Funding Provision

\$151 million

Disbursements

Around \$76.48 million

Programme

Additional academic expenses grant for eligible recipients of assistance under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP)
(in 2014/15 school year, each eligible student was provided an additional academic expenses grant up to \$2,000 per year. The maximum amount in 2015/16 and 2016/17 school year 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 applicants of the FASP who have passed the means 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.

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 9 700 students

Disbursements

Around \$63.33 million

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

(a 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

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.

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)

Beneficiary Statistics

140 person-times

Funding Provision

\$12.46 million

Disbursements

Around \$0.99 million

Programme

Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes
(in 2015/16 school year, an additional academic expenses grant up to \$8,000 was provided to each eligible student per year. The maximum amount in 2016/17 and 2017/18 school year is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible applicants of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students who have passed the means test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency; and
- confirmed by a relevant professional to have at least one type of SEN including specific 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.

Provision of a one-off grant for school-related expenses to kindergarten students

Starting Date of Implementation

2016/17 school year
(a one-off subsidy programme)

Funding Provision

\$157.65 million

Beneficiary Statistics

Around 50 000 kindergarten
(KG) students are expected

Disbursements

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

Programme

Provide timely support for needy families to defray school-related expenses incurred from their children's KG education other than school fees prior to the implementation of the new free quality KG education policy in the 2017/18 school year

(According to the results of the means test on their families, each eligible KG student (including students attending whole-day and half-day KG classes) may receive the full grant of \$3,770, 3/4 grant of \$2,828 or half grant of \$1,885.)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Students who have passed the means test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency;
- they are eligible for the KG and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme; and
- they will attend nursery, lower or upper classes in KGs under the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme in the 2016/17 school year.

Progress and Evaluation

Not applicable (Note)

(Note: Since the programme aims at providing timely support to low-income families with children attending KGs/ KG-cum-child care centres by means of a one-off grant prior to the implementation of the free quality KG education policy, the Commission on Poverty decided at its meeting in March 2016 that evaluation of the programme would not be required.)

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

Around 31 100 persons are expected

Funding Provision

\$98.75 million

Disbursements

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

Programme

Provide free cervical cancer vaccination to teenage girls from eligible low-income families

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Girls aged 9 to 18, who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; or
- female students aged 9 or above, who are receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme.

Progress and Evaluation

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



Pilot scheme on raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings for recipients with disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

Around 3 000 persons are expected

Funding Provision

\$47.25 million

Disbursements

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

Programme

Raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings (DE) for disabled Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients from \$2,500 to \$4,000 each month, representing a 60% increase of the DE.

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Receiving CSSA and is medically certified to be disabled or in ill-health;
- engaging in paid employment and entitled to the DE arrangement under the CSSA Scheme; and
- being medically certified to be disabled or in ill-health continuously while enjoying the raised DE under the pilot scheme.

Progress and Evaluation

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



Pilot scheme on providing subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients in paid employment to hire carers

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

Around 100 persons are expected

Funding Provision

\$18.9 million

Disbursements

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

Programme

Provide a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 for Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) recipients in paid employment to hire carers.

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Receiving HDA under the Social Security Allowance Scheme (excluding persons being medically certified as "unfit for making a statement");
- having secured paid employment with a monthly income of not less than 75% and not exceeding three times of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income for one-person household (self-employment or work-at-home jobs is not applicable); and
- being gainfully employed but his/her relatives or friends are unable to provide care, and is in need of hiring a full-time carer (mainly foreign domestic helper) to assist in travelling between home and office (not applicable to work-at-home jobs) and/or taking care of activities at the workplace (including providing care for daily living).

Progress and Evaluation

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



18

Pilot scheme on living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a two-year pilot scheme)

Funding Provision

\$125.58 million

Beneficiary Statistics

Around 2 000 persons are expected

Disbursements

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



Programme

Provide subsidy for low-income carers of persons with disabilities to render financial support for the concerned carers in need.

(a monthly allowance of \$2,000 will be disbursed to an eligible carer, and a maximum of \$4,000 per month will be disbursed to those carers who take care of more than one person with disabilities at the same time) (Note)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- The person(s) with disabilities being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong (HK), and have been on the waiting list for any one of the specified rehabilitation services under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) or special school with boarding placement under the Education Bureau or infirmary service of the Hospital Authority on or before a specified date; must be living in the community without using any residential care services or undergoing long-term hospitalisation;
- the carer must be a HK resident living in HK, capable of taking up the care-giving role and has not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the person(s) with disabilities under his/her care, and is required to provide care-giving work of not less than the specified hours per month; and
- the carer must not be a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, Old Age Living Allowance, or allowance in respect of taking care of the same person with disabilities under the Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families; and the monthly household income of the carer must not exceed 75% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

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

(Note: The District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, Parents/Relatives Resource Centres and Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness under subvention of SWD will assist to provide support services under the pilot scheme.)

Assistance Programme to be Rolled Out Soon



Dementia Community Support Scheme

The Hospital Authority and the Social Welfare Department will implement a two-year pilot scheme, named as “Dementia Community Support Scheme”, adopting a medical-social collaboration model to provide dementia support services for the elderly at the community level through District Elderly Community Centres. The dementia support services will commence in early 2017 and is expected to benefit about 2 000 elderly persons. The funding provision is about \$98.88 million.



Way Forward

Over the past five years, the Community Care Fund (CCF) rolled out various assistance programmes in response to the need of people in the community in a caring, flexible and innovative manner. 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
by the following organisations:

(in alphabetical order)

City University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

Hospital Authority

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Vocational Training Council



Community Care Fund

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

