

The Third Meeting of the Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund 21 June 2011

Summary of Discussion

The Executive Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its third meeting on 21 June 2011. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members endorsed the budget monitoring and administrative arrangements regarding such aspects on budgetary control, recording, auditing and reporting.
2. Members deliberated on the use of additional injection for the proposed Programme to provide a one-off allowance to new arrivals from low-income families (the Programme) who were aged 18 or above and had entered Hong Kong for settlement, as follows:
 - (1) Target beneficiaries of the Programme should be new arrivals from low-income families who were aged 18 or above and had entered Hong Kong for settlement. Those who entered Hong Kong for purposes other than settlement should not be covered. The aim of the Programme was to facilitate their integration and adaptation into the community so that they could better prepare themselves for permanent settlement in Hong Kong.
 - (2) Noting the views of members of the Home Affairs Sub-committee and those attending the Focus Group meetings, Members proposed setting the amount of allowance at \$6,000.
 - (3) Application period would be from 3 October 2011 to 30 June 2012.
 - (4) Household-based means test should be introduced to identify the needy persons:
 - (i) If applicants or family members residing with them had already passed the household-based means test under specified assistance schemes, they would be exempted from means test. Specified assistance schemes included the Comprehensive Social Security Scheme, financial assistance schemes for

students under the Student Financial Assistance Agency and waiving mechanism of public hospitals (excluding one-off waiver); or

- (ii) The monthly household income of applicants should be less than the specified income limit which would be set with reference to the median monthly domestic household income in the first quarter of 2011.
- (5) Members noted the comparative merits of written declaration and statutory declaration required of applicants on their household income. Members proposed adopting written declaration which would be simpler for applicants and minimise administrative cost.
 - (6) Applicants must reach the age of 18 at the time of application.
 - (7) All appeals against application results should be handled by a team comprising members from the Home Affairs Sub-committee. Participation of members of the Steering Committee was also welcome.
 - (8) Applicants who had submitted the applications but later died before receiving the allowance would be granted the allowance after his eligibility for the Programme was confirmed by the Secretariat. The sum would be treated as part of their estate.
3. Members agreed to submit the proposed Programme to the Steering Committee for consideration. Subject to the endorsement of the Steering Committee and the funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the CCF Secretariat would commence the publicity campaign in September 2011.