

The Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund 21 November 2012

Summary of Discussion

The Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its seventh meeting on 21 November 2012. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the implementation of five assistance programmes under the CCF since the last meeting in May 2012:
 - (i) Subsidy for Low-income Elderly Tenants in Private Housing;
 - (ii) After-school Care Pilot Scheme;
 - (iii) Elderly Dental Assistance Programme;
 - (iv) Subsidy for Owners' Corporations of Old Buildings; and
 - (v) Subsidy for Low-Income Persons who are Inadequately Housed.

Since its establishment, the CCF had benefited over 100 000 persons/households through its 17 assistance programmes. The CCF had also launched the programme to provide a one-off allowance of \$6,000 to new arrivals from the Mainland, benefiting close to 200 000 persons. Among these, the Second Phase Programme of the CCF Medical Assistance Programmes had been incorporated into the regular assistance programme of the Samaritan Fund since September 2012. In addition, the Government was also studying the incorporation of three other programmes (Lunch Subsidy for Primary School Students from Low-income Families; Subsidy for Tenant Purchase Scheme Flat Owners on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA); and Training Subsidy for Children who are on the Waiting list of Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services) into the regular assistance programmes.

2. Members endorsed launching a special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment.

The programme would be implemented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). Major eligibility criteria of the programme included:

- (i) meeting all the eligibility criteria of the CCF's current programme of "Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled";
- (2) having the need to rent respiratory support medical equipment without existing assistance, and receiving Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme; and
- (3) with the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.

There would be two levels of subsidy. For beneficiaries with annual household disposable financial resources of \$100,000 or below, a monthly subsidy of \$2,500 would be granted. For beneficiaries with annual household disposable financial resources over \$100,000 but not exceeding \$180,000, a monthly subsidy of \$2,000 would be granted.

3. Following the re-instatement of the Commission on Poverty (CoP) by the Government, the CCF would be integrated into the work of the CoP. Under the new structure of the CoP, several task forces were set up for different policy areas. The CCF Task Force would mainly provide financial support for people in need.
4. The CCF had accomplished its objectives over the last two years by providing assistance to individuals who fell outside the social safety net effectively as well as launching various assistance programmes to plug the gaps or imperfections in the existing system.