

**The Fifth Meeting of the Welfare Sub-committee on  
the Community Care Fund  
7 December 2011**

**Summary of Discussion**

The Welfare Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its fifth meeting on 7 December 2011. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of the programme of “Lunch subsidy at schools for students from low-income families”. The Education Bureau would evaluate the mode of operation of the programme and report to the Sub-committee for considering the sustainability of the programme.
2. Members noted the progress of the programme of “Relocation allowance for residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings”. The Development Bureau and the Buildings Department (BD) had devised the action details and relevant documents of the programme (e.g. the application forms and notices for distribution to the residents concerned) and was discussing with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to draw up the relevant arrangements on the programme’s linkage with other assistance or subsidy programmes. Moreover, BD planned, starting from mid-December, to register those residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who had received statutory orders. It was estimated that applicants would be disbursed with the allowance under the programme in about four weeks after submitting their applications.
3. Members noted the progress of the five assistance programmes implemented by SWD:
  - For the programme “Special care subsidy for the severely disabled”, a total number of 1 380 applications had been received so far, which was fewer than the estimate of 3 800 applications. The estimated number of beneficiaries was derived from the total number of recipients of the Higher Disability Allowance, including those who did not meet the programme’s income limit requirement. Thus, the estimated number of beneficiaries would be more than the actual applications.

- For the programme of “Subsidy for Tenant Purchase Scheme flat owners on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance”, a total number of 830 applications had been received. When SWD devised the programme, the estimated number of beneficiaries was derived from the number of eligible households according to the data from the social security database. It was estimated that not more than 1 300 households would benefit from the programme.
  - There were many children waiting for places of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services. For the programme of “Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services”, an evaluation of the programme arrangements, including the number of places available from the relevant service organisations, might be conducted after the implementation of the programme for sometime.
  - For the programme of “Subsidy for elders from low-income families to hire household cleaning service and escorting service for medical consultations”, a total number of 410 applications had been received. The number of applications was less than the estimation. SWD might strengthen its publicity effort or take initiative to reach out to the target groups.
4. Members discussed the programme of “Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing”. Some Members proposed raising the rental ceiling. The Sub-committee agreed to submit the proposed programme to the Executive Committee for consideration.
5. Members discussed the proposed assistance programmes that the Sub-committee might consider implementing next year, including:
- Subsidies for visually-impaired persons to purchase computer equipment and the relevant hardware/software, and for audically-impaired persons to purchase hearing-aids.
  - Assistance for chronically-ill patients.
  - Assistance for low-income persons who had been waiting for allocation of public housing for years.