

## **The Fourth Meeting of the Community Care Fund Task Force 5 September 2013**

### **Summary of Discussion**

The Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its fourth meeting on 5 September 2013. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress report of the current CCF assistance programmes and endorsed the detailed breakdown of the administrative expenses estimates/revised estimates of the following five programmes:
  - (i) Special care subsidy for the severely disabled;
  - (ii) Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients living in rented private housing;
  - (iii) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment (RSME);
  - (iv) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to RSME; and
  - (v) One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA.
2. Regarding the “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” programme, Members agreed to raise the income limit for one-person households to 100% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income, as well as raising the allowance amounts to keep them at around 60% of the allowance amounts for the reference programmes. The proposal would be submitted to the CoP for consideration and approval.
3. Members noted the interim evaluation report of the “Elderly dental assistance programme”. It was proposed in the report that the CCF Task Force should consider gradually expanding the eligibility criteria of the programme, taking into account the progress of implementation, the experience gained and the number of participating dentists, etc. In addition, members supported the adjustment of the subsidy for dental service under the programme. After adjustment, the maximum subsidy for dental service for each beneficiary would increase from \$9,095 to \$12,015. The proposed increase of the maximum subsidy for dental

service would be submitted to the CoP for consideration and approval.

4. Members discussed the proposed pilot incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the “Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance” to secure employment which aimed at further encouraging the able-bodied CSSA recipients to take up employment and leave the CSSA net. Under the pilot scheme, the amount of earnings from employment of the participant above the current maximum amount of the disregarded earnings, which would not be disregarded under the CSSA Scheme, would be accumulated in the form of incentive payment. When the amount of incentive payment accumulated reached the targeted amount, the CCF would release the full amount of the incentive payment to the participant for him to leave the CSSA net. Members supported launching the pilot scheme and requested the relevant department to incorporate into the proposal for the CoP’s consideration about the CCF Task Force’s views on title of the scheme and the setting up of a working group to follow up the scheme.