

Community Care Fund – Public Consultation Sessions
Summary of Views and Suggestions

The Community Care Fund (CCF) held two public consultation sessions on 15 and 25 February 2017 respectively to gauge public views on the existing assistance programmes and the formulation of new programmes. Here below is a summary of views and suggestions on the programmes from participants:

Existing Assistance Programmes

1. Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled

- (1) To incorporate the programme into the government's regular assistance programme so as to meet the need of the severely disabled.
- (2) To waive the requirement of deducting the special care subsidy from those who have stayed in public hospitals or institutions under the Hospital Authority or in residential institutions subsidised by the government for more than the specified number of days.

2. Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing

- (1) To raise the subsidy amount and introduce additional tiers of subsidy according to eligible household sizes.
- (2) To face up to the situation of market rents exceeding the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme and consider incorporating the programme into the government's regular assistance programme.

3. Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

- (1) To raise the monthly household income limit.
- (2) To take the applicant's actual expenditure as one of the eligibility requirements instead of focusing on the applicant's monthly household income.

(3) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) should allocate sufficient resources to the district support centres of the service units for handling cases, so as to relieve the service units' pressure for manpower resources.

(4) To increase the application quota and relax the requirements for PWDs being taken care of to be on the waiting lists for any specified rehabilitation services subsidised by SWD or other relevant services and submission of a monthly "Record of Hours of Care-giving".

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

(1) To increase the amount of subsidy to help tenants of sub-divided units in industrial buildings cope with domestic removal expenses.

(2) To cover tenants of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who are not affected by the Building Department's enforcement action or have moved out voluntarily before the enforcement action or were forcibly evicted by building owners.

5. Pilot Scheme on the Provision of Funding for Ordinary Schools to Arrange Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators

(1) To monitor the effectiveness of the programme so as to guard against abuse.

Assistance Programmes Incorporated into the Government's Regular Assistance Programmes or Completed

1. One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving CSSA

- (1) To incorporate the programme into the government's regular assistance programme to alleviate the financial burden of the "N have-nots".
- (2) To extend the implementation of the programme on the consideration that single persons are not eligible for the Low-income Working Family Allowance, so as to fulfil the CCF's function of plugging gaps in the existing system.

2. Subsidy to Meet Lunch Expenses at Schools

- (1) To arrange diversified food options (including halal food) to cater for the different needs of individual student groups such as ethnic minorities.

Suggestions for New Assistance Programmes

1. The Elderly

- (1) To grant concessions or subsidy on rates or government rent to singleton elderly with financial needs.
- (2) To introduce support measures for retirees to cope with their financial pressure.

2. Young People, Students and Children

- (1) To provide health care vouchers to children from low-income families to enable them to receive suitable private healthcare services, thus safeguarding children's right of seeking medical consultation.

- (2) To provide assistance to children who are born locally but whose parents are non-permanent residents of Hong Kong, i.e. “doubly non-permanent resident” children.
- (3) To provide subsidies to youth at risk who are not admitted to regular aided schools so as to help them cover the tuition fees for private schools, the enrolment fees for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination as well as their living expenses.
- (4) To provide assistance to single persons so as to alleviate the burden of their housing and living expenses.

3. PWDs, Chronic Patients and their Carers

- (1) To provide a subsidy for PWDs to apply for the Personal Emergency Link Service.
- (2) To provide health care vouchers for PWDs to receive private medical care and dental services.
- (3) To provide a domestic helper subsidy for carers (including parents) of PWDs to employ foreign domestic helpers so as to alleviate their pressure of taking care of PWDs.
- (4) To provide a subsidy for persons with hearing impairment to cover the maintenance fees for medical devices such as hearing aids and cochlear implants.
- (5) To provide a subsidy for persons with stoma and in financial needs to purchase medical consumables.
- (6) To provide a subsidy for carers of students with special educational needs and subsidise low-income families with students with dyslexia to purchase relevant supporting computer equipment.
- (7) To subsidise students with special educational needs to seek assessment services from the private sector, to use services such as after-school care and homework guidance, to undergo physical training and to receive occupational therapy.

- (8) To provide a transport subsidy for PWDs to travel between home and special schools as well as home and sheltered workshops, to join community activities, etc.
- (9) To subsidise social and welfare organisations to provide specialised training for their tutors to help students with special educational needs, as well as to provide physical fitness activities and sensory integration training for and promote the same to those students in the community.

4. Low-income Earners or Families

- (1) To continue to provide a subsidy for those low-income “N have-nots” or those facing difficulties in finding a home, to incorporate the relevant programme into the government’s regular assistance programme, and to provide an energy subsidy and a rent allowance for low-income families residing in rented sub-divided units.
- (2) To provide transitional housing for those who are living in inadequate housing (including illegal structures such as rooftop structures) and are required to move out so as to address their short-term housing needs.
- (3) To provide an allowance for those able-bodied CSSA recipients who are living in rented private housing to move and to cover their rent deposit.
- (4) To provide a medical subsidy for low-income families and an allowance for them to seek preventive dental services such as check-up, scaling and cavity filling.
- (5) To provide a transitional subsidy for low-income families who have been waiting for public rental housing for over 3 years with a view to helping them cope with the burden of rising rents.

Other Views

- (1) To provide a one-off allowance for persons who are being defaulted of maintenance payment while receiving a deducted amount of CSSA allowance so as to help them pay for their living expenses.
- (2) To provide a subsidy for employees who are injured at work and are owed payment of wages by their company or are waiting for the result of medical assessment, so as to help them meet their pressing living expenses.
- (3) To strengthen the publicity for assistance programmes under the CCF by promoting the programmes to local residents (especially the ethnic minorities) through more channels, and to better utilise innovative technologies (e.g. animations) to create greater impact.
- (4) To provide sample application forms for various assistance programmes.