

## **The Second Meeting of the Fourth-term**

### **Community Care Fund Task Force**

**19 February 2021**

#### **Summary of Discussion**

The fourth-term Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its second meeting on 19 February 2021. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of existing assistance programmes and the latest financial position of the CCF.
2. Members also noted the evaluation report on the Cervical Cancer Vaccination Pilot Scheme submitted by the Food and Health Bureau. The report would be submitted to the CoP for reference.
3. After discussion, the Task Force supported the following proposals:
  - (a) to allocate \$95 million for launching the Pilot Scheme to Subsidise Using Rooms in Hotels and Guesthouses as Transitional Housing of which around 800 suitable rooms in hotels and guesthouses with substantial vacancies would be rented for use as transitional housing through non-governmental organisations. The tenancy period of these hotels and guesthouses would not be shorter than two years, and the subsidy per room would be capped at \$133,500 during the two-year tenancy period;
  - (b) to further optimise the means test mechanism of the CCF Medical Assistance Programmes through: (i) modification of the calculation method of annual disposable financial resources (ADFR) of recurrent applications, with the drug expenses paid by patients for the last treatment course included as allowable deduction of the patients' household disposable income, and with only 80% of the patients' household disposable income (inclusive of allowable deduction items) included in the calculation of ADFR; (ii) introduction of new allowable deduction items to all drug subsidy applications, including school fees of tertiary education for full-time students aged 25 or below and maintenance payments, and adjustment of the calculation of

income by excluding double pay, year-end payment, bonus and gratuity as well as monthly payout amount of reverse mortgage/policy reverse mortgage; and (iii) extension of the validity period of the financial assessment of the first applications from 12 months to 18 months on the condition that the patient contribution would not be more than \$2,000. Applicants would be required to make the same amount of contribution upon annual renewal of applications without the need for financial assessment. If patients considered that there is a need for financial reassessment due to changes in their household financial conditions, they could make such a request anytime during the application period. Furthermore, the Hospital Authority would waive the requirement to submit financial documents if patients had been referred for a second application within one to two months after the first application; and

- (c) to allocate an additional \$571.83 million for supporting the two rounds of One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance programme (one-off living subsidy), including around \$34.46 million for administrative fees, to cope with the anticipated increase in the number of beneficiary households, having considered that the number of applicant households was higher than estimated. The total estimated expenditure for the two rounds of one-off living subsidy was around \$3,137.74 million.

4. The above proposals would be submitted to the CoP for consideration.