

**The Third Meeting of the Third-term
Community Care Fund Task Force
11 March 2019**

Summary of Discussion

The third-term Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force (CCFTF) under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its third meeting on 11 March 2019. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of the CCF's existing assistance programmes and its latest financial position, as well as the final evaluation report on the Dementia Community Support Scheme.
2. After discussion, the CCFTF supported the following proposals:
 - (a) to cover the cost of new mobile computer devices purchased by students receiving half grant of the textbook assistance (half grant students) upon changing schools with CCF funding under the "Provision of Subsidy to Needy Primary and Secondary Students for Purchasing Mobile Computer Devices to Facilitate the Practice of e-Learning" programme. It was expected that the arrangement could benefit about 1 000 half grant students and required no additional funding.
 - (b) to include a specified self-financed cancer drug (Ribociclib) in the "First Phase Programme of Medical Assistance Programmes" (First Phase Programme) starting from the third quarter of 2019. The Hospital Authority (HA) would also introduce a new clinical indication for a drug (Enzalutamide) currently covered under the First Phase Programme. The budget for the eighth year of the First Phase Programme would be revised to \$353.72 million. It was expected that the inclusion of the new drug and the introduction of the clinical indication could benefit about 140 patients in the first 12 months after implementation.
 - (c) to include a new drug (Tafamidis) for treating Transthyretin Familial Amyloid Polyneuropathy in the "Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those for Treating Uncommon Disorders)" programme starting from the third quarter of 2019, and to revise the budget for the second year of the programme to \$151.36 million. It was expected that the inclusion of the new drug could benefit about six patients in the first 12 months after implementation.
 - (d) to extend the coverage of the existing medical device "Transcatheter

Aortic Valve Implantation” to cover “Valve in Valve” under the “Subsidy for Eligible Patients of HA to Purchase Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures” programme, and to revise the budget for the second year of the programme to \$32.24 million. It was expected that the extension arrangement could benefit about 10 patients in the first 12 months after implementation.

- (e) to extend the implementation of the “Providing Hostel Subsidy for Needy Undergraduate Students” programme for two more academic years, i.e. 2019/20 and 2020/21, and to revise the total provision for the programme to \$263.1 million. The extension arrangement was expected to benefit around 11 000 student-times.
- (f) to extend the implementation of the “Increasing the Academic Expenses Grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students” programme for two more academic years, i.e. 2019/20 and 2020/21, and to revise the total provision for the programme to \$233.87 million. The extension arrangement was expected to benefit around 29 000 student-times.

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