

The Third Meeting of the Fourth-term

Community Care Fund Task Force

20 May 2021

Summary of Discussion

The fourth-term Community Care Fund (CCF) Task Force under the Commission on Poverty (CoP) held its third meeting on 20 May 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 noted the evaluation / conclusion reports on six programmes / schemes, including “Provision of Subsidy to Needy Primary and Secondary Students for Purchasing Mobile Computer Devices to Facilitate the Practice of e-Learning”, “Pilot Scheme on Subsidised Cervical Cancer Screening and Preventive Education for Eligible Low-income Women”, “Providing Hostel Subsidy for Needy Undergraduate Students”, “Increasing the Academic Expenses Grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students”, “Enhancing the Academic Expenses Grant for Students with Special Educational Needs and Financial Needs Pursuing Post-secondary Programmes” and “Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing”. The relevant reports would be submitted to the CoP for reference.
3. After discussion, the Task Force supported the following two proposals:
 - (a) Enhancement of the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme

Following the Chief Executive’s announcement to enhance the programme in her 2020 Policy Address, the proposed measures were as below:

- (i) allowing elderly persons aged 75 or above who received dental services under the Programme at least five years ago to receive free removal dentures and / or other related dental services for a second time;

- (ii) including the removal of bridges or crowns and the provision of root canal treatment in the free dental services covered by the Programme; and
- (iii) increasing the maximum amount of subsidy for dental services for each elderly beneficiary from the existing \$18,680 to \$26,080. The maximum amount of subsidy would be reviewed / adjusted annually according to the established mechanism.

In light of the enhanced arrangements, the programme would be extended until September 2023 and the deadline for receiving new applications would be set at end-December 2022. The budget of the Programme would be increased by \$866.75 million to \$2,259.42 million, including administrative fees of \$77.86 million; and

- (b) Additional Funding for the Programme on “Provision of Subsidy to Needy Primary and Secondary Students for Purchasing Mobile Computer Devices to Facilitate the Practice of e-Learning”

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, many students needed to use mobile computer devices for e-learning at home before full resumption of classes. To this end, the Education Bureau had handled applications under the programme flexibly and accepted applications submitted by all public sector primary and secondary schools implementing e-learning for their eligible students. The participation rate and the amount of subsidy of the programme in the 2020/21 school year increased accordingly. To meet the required expenditures, the total financial commitment of the programme would be increased by \$286 million to \$701.54 million, of which the administrative fees of \$11.54 million remained unchanged.

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