

Community Care Fund





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Community Care Fund: Introduction



The Community Care Fund (CCF) is a trust fund established in early 2011 under the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1044) with the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated as its trustee. Its main objective is to provide assistance to people facing financial difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but still have special circumstances that are not covered. In addition, the CCF may also consider introducing programmes on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those measures that can be considered for incorporation into its regular assistance and service programmes.

The CCF has since 2013 been integrated into the work of the Commission on Poverty (CoP). The CCF Task Force, set up under the CoP as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, is responsible for advising the CoP on the CCF's various arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes, the co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of assistance programmes, and the evaluation of their effectiveness.



Community Care Fund: Operating Principles



The operation of the Community Care Fund (CCF) is guided by the following principles:

(1)

building a caring culture in society by gathering the efforts of various sectors of the community and encouraging the better-off to contribute;

(2)

programmes should be people-oriented with assistance directly provided to beneficiaries; administrative costs or involvement of implementing agencies should be minimised though the need for non-governmental organisations' help to reach out to target groups outside the existing service network will not be precluded; programmes should be multifarious in nature; and the vetting procedures should be streamlined to ensure cost-effectiveness;

(3)

programmes should complement the assistance and services provided by the Government or other charitable funds; duplication of efforts should be avoided as far as practicable; and

(4)

operation of the CCF is mainly be funded by investment returns on the seed capital, but the seed capital may be deployed in accordance with the principle of financial prudence in response to needs.

The target beneficiaries of the CCF are those facing financial difficulties and in need of assistance.

The Government has injected \$5 billion and \$15 billion into the CCF in 2011 and 2013 respectively. Besides, the CCF has accepted around \$1.8 billion donations. As at end March 2019, the balance of the CCF is around \$19.553 billion.

Community Care Fund Task Force: Membership



(1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020)

Chairperson

Dr Law Chi-kiwong, GBS, JP
Secretary for Labour and
Welfare

Vice-chairperson

Mr Chua Hoi-wai

Members of the Commission on Poverty

Mr Chan Cho-biu, BBS
Mr Chau Pui-por
Mr Roy Kwong Chun-yu
Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang
Ms Lau Oi-size
Dr Jane Lee Ching-yee, JP
Mr Clarence Leung Wang-ching,
JP
Ms Ansah Majeed Malik
Mr Albert Su Yau-on
Ms Sze Lai-shan
Mr Tang Ka-piu, JP
Ms Eva Wong Ching-hung
Professor Simon Wong Kit-lung,
JP
Mr Yip Man-pan
Ms Grace Yu Ho-wun

Co-opted Members

Mr Patrick Chan Ngai-yu
Mr Cheung Kwok-che
Mr Cheung Leong
Mr Langton Cheung Yung-pong, MH
Ms Catherina Choy Mei-wa
Mr Stanton Chu Wai-ki
Dr Tony Ko Pat-sing
Professor Wallace Lau Chak-sing, JP
Mr Lau Kwok-leung
Ms Lilian Law Suk-kwan, MH, JP
Ms Josephine Lee Yuk-chi
Dr Pamela Leung Pui-yu
Dr Haston Liu Wai-ming
Mr Ng Ka-him
Mr Daryl Ng Win-kong, JP
Mr Tso Tat-ming
Ms Yeung Yee-ching

Ex-officio Members

Permanent Secretary for Education (or representative)
Permanent Secretary for Food & Health (Health)
(or representative)
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (or representative)
Permanent Secretary for Labour & Welfare
(or representative)
Director of Home Affairs (or representative)
Director of Social Welfare (or representative)

Community Care Fund Task Force: Terms of Reference



(1)

Advise the Commission on Poverty (CoP) on the Community Care Fund's various strategies and arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes (including target beneficiaries, assistance amounts, handling of cross-sectoral issues and setting priorities);

(2)

Co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of assistance programmes and review their effectiveness, as well as advising the CoP on the incorporation of programmes into the Government's regular assistance programme and service;

(3)

Maintain close liaison with and provide mutual support to other Task Forces/Working Groups under the CoP, and report to the CoP on its workplans and progress as and when appropriate; and

(4)

Collaborate with the CoP and its other Task Forces/Working Groups to prepare for the annual CoP Summit for reporting the work progress of the CoP and engaging the public and various sectors in the community to take forward poverty alleviation work.



Community Care Fund Assistance Programmes – Introduction

Since its establishment, the Community Care Fund (CCF) has launched 47 assistance programmes covering the medical, education, welfare, home affairs and housing areas for various target beneficiary groups including children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, patients, new arrivals and ethnic minorities. The total commitment is around \$9.5 billion. So far, more than 1.68 million cases have benefited under these programmes. People outside the existing safety net or the coverage of the Government's short-term relief measures have been identified and provided with assistance. So far, 13 effective programmes have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes and eight programmes have been completed.

In 2018, the Commission on Poverty approved two new assistance programmes under the CCF, including Provision of Subsidy to Needy Primary and Secondary Students for Purchasing Mobile Computer Devices to Facilitate the Practice of e-Learning and Pilot Scheme on Subsidy to Purchase and Construct Modular Social Housing. The CCF has also enhanced or extended several programmes so that the assistance can be provided in a more effective manner.



Assistance Programmes Incorporated into the Government's Regular Assistance Programmes



The Community Care Fund implements measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that are effective for incorporation into its regular assistance programmes. So far, 13 programmes have been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programmes. Details are set out in the following pages.





Subsidy for Patients who Marginally Fall Outside the Samaritan Fund (SF) Safety Net for the Use of SF Subsidised Drugs

Implementation Date

January to August 2012
(incorporated into the SF with effect from 1 September 2012)

Beneficiary Statistics

280 person-times

Funding Provision

\$4.28 million

Disbursements

\$4.28 million

Programme

Subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority who marginally fall outside the SF safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs

(to subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism was adopted by applying a more relaxed patient contribution ratio than that for the SF i.e. the patient's maximum contribution ratio is 20%.



Financial Assistance for Non-school-attending Ethnic Minorities and New Arrivals from the Mainland for Taking Language Examinations

Implementation Date

September 2011 to September 2013
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 26 September 2013)

Beneficiary Statistics

428 persons

Funding Provision

\$0.5 million

Disbursements

\$0.45 million

Programme

Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations

(reimbursement of relevant examination fees to beneficiaries on an accountable basis)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or Hospital Authority Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or
- household income below 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.





Subsidy for Non-school-attending Ethnic Minorities and New Arrivals from the Mainland Participating in Language Courses

Implementation Date

March 2012 to September 2013
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 26 September 2013)

Beneficiary Statistics

171 persons

Funding Provision

\$0.13 million

Disbursements

\$0.06 million

Programme

Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses (a subsidy of \$350 to \$700 is provided for participating in dedicated language courses of the Employees Retraining Board)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or Hospital Authority Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or
- household income below 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.



Subsidy for Tenants Purchase Scheme Flat Owners on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance

Implementation Date

September 2011

(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 April 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

825 households

Funding Provision

\$1.73 million

Disbursements

\$1.65 million

Programme

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) households who have been owner-occupiers of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above and not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme (a subsidy of \$2,000 per household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- CSSA households meeting the relevant criteria as at 1 July 2011.



5

Subsidy to Meet Lunch Expenses at Schools

Implementation Date

September 2011 to August 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Beneficiary Statistics

178 076 person-times
(including 56 387, 60 386 and 61 303 beneficiaries in the school years of 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively)

Funding Provision

\$434.56 million

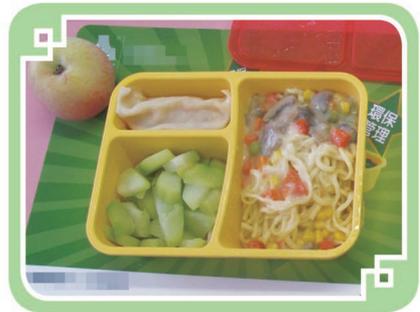
Disbursements

Around \$430.19 million

Programme

Subsidy to meet lunch expenses for students from low-income families studying in whole-day primary schools

(the subsidy level is determined by the actual fee charged by lunch suppliers and schools pay the lunch charges to the lunch suppliers directly on behalf of the eligible students)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary students in receipt of full grant assistance from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency studying in whole-day public sector schools (including special schools) or primary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and having lunch as arranged by their schools.

Enhancement of the Flat Rate Grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme

Implementation Date

October 2013 to August 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Beneficiary Statistics

312 325 persons
(including 235 278 students meeting the eligibility criteria for the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) under the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency and 77 047 students on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA))

Funding Provision

\$263.14 million

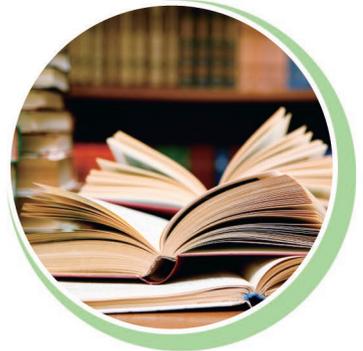
Disbursements

Around \$263.03 million
(including \$186.05 million disbursed by SFO and \$76.98 million disbursed by the Social Welfare Department)

Programme

Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the STAS

(an additional grant of \$1,000 or \$500, depending on the different conditions)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary and secondary students receiving full and half grant under the STAS of the SFO (an additional grant of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for each student); and
- primary and secondary students on CSSA (an additional grant of \$1,000 for each student).



Enhancement of the Financial Assistance for Needy Students Pursuing Programmes Below Sub-degree Level

Implementation Date

October 2013 to August 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2014/15 school year)

Funding Provision

\$50.6 million

Beneficiary Statistics

Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme:
2 779 persons
Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant:
4 524 persons
(including 2 819 Vocational Training Council (VTC) students and 1 705 Yi Jin Diploma students)

Disbursements

Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme:
\$43.02 million
Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant:
\$7.58 million
(including \$4.65 million for VTC students and \$2.93 million for Yi Jin Diploma students)

Programme

Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level

(including the "Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme" and the "Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant")



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Target beneficiaries of the "Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme" are students enrolling in eligible courses below sub-degree level.
- Target beneficiaries of the "Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant" are students enrolling in eligible courses with duration of one year or above; the grant amount is on par with the enhanced flat-rate grant receivable by eligible primary and secondary students after enhancement (i.e. \$2,094 and \$1,047 for each full-grant and half-grant student respectively) in the 2013/14 school year.



Training Subsidy for Children who are on the Waiting List for Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services

Implementation Date

December 2011 to September 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 October 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 840 persons

Funding Provision

\$62.89 million

Disbursements

Around \$59.9 million

Programme

Training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services
(a monthly subsidy of not more than \$2,615)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- On the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services on or before 31 January 2014; and
- household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.





Special Subsidy to Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities for Renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment

Implementation Date

January 2013 to October 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

260 persons

Funding Provision

\$8.03 million

Disbursements

Around \$7.65 million

Programme

Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment

(according to the monthly household income and annual household disposable financial resources, the subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" (\$2,500 or \$2,000 per month); "3/4 grant" (\$1,875 or \$1,500 per month) or "half grant" (\$1,250 or \$1,000 per month))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Renting respiratory support medical equipment without any relevant assistance, at the same time living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.



Special Subsidy to Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities for Purchasing Medical Consumables related to Respiratory Support Medical Equipment

Implementation Date

September 2013 to October 2014
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014)

Beneficiary Statistics

175 persons

Funding Provision

\$2.1 million

Disbursements

Around \$2 million

Programme

Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment (according to the monthly household income, the subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" (a maximum of \$2,000 per month); "3/4 grant" (a maximum of \$1,500 per month) or "half grant" (a maximum of \$1,000 per month))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Using respiratory support medical equipment without receiving any relevant subsidy to purchase related medical consumables, at the same time living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.



Extra Travel Subsidy for Needy Special School Students

Implementation Date

October 2013 to July 2015
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2015/16 school year)

Beneficiary Statistics

3 463 persons

Funding Provision

\$3.47 million

Disbursements

Around \$3.36 million

Programme

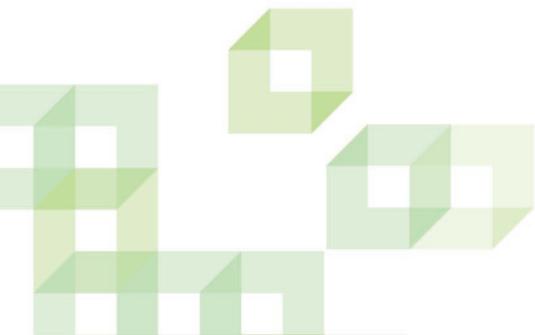
Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students

(the enhanced travel subsidy is 50% of the amount of travel subsidy an eligible student can receive on top of the student travel subsidy disbursed)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Needy special school students from Primary One to Secondary Six who are physically disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, mildly, moderately or severely intellectually disabled, and are receiving full grant or half grant under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.



Provision of Funding for Ordinary Schools to Arrange Special Educational Needs Coordinators Pilot Scheme

Implementation Date

September 2015 to August 2017
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from the 2017/18 school year)

Beneficiary Statistics

About 10 220 students

Funding Provision

\$130.54 million

Disbursements

Around \$126.4 million

Programme

Cash subsidy to ordinary schools admitting relatively large number of students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs to designate a teacher to be special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) for coordinating matters related to SEN

(a subsidy of \$0.57 million and \$0.49 million is provided to each eligible secondary school and primary school respectively. Experts are hired to conduct an evaluation on the effectiveness of the pilot scheme and to provide professional development programme for SENCOs)



Major Eligibility Criteria

Public sector ordinary secondary and primary schools meeting the following two criteria in the 2014/15 school year:

- The number of financially-needy students should account for at least 55% of the total number of students of the school (including students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, full grant or half grant from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency); and
- should have at least 50 students with SEN in need of Tier-2 or Tier-3 support under the 3-Tier Intervention Model.

Implementation Date

February 2017 to January 2019
(incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from February 2019)

Beneficiary Statistics

1 993 persons

Funding Provision

\$98.88 million

Disbursements

Around \$82.91 million

Programme

A pilot scheme which adopts a medical-social collaboration model to provide dementia community support services for elderly persons

(Participants who are recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) or Normal/Higher Old Age Living Allowance (Normal/Higher OALA), or holders of medical fee waiver (not applicable to holders of one-off medical waiver) can receive free services under the pilot scheme. Participants who are neither recipients of CSSA or Normal/Higher OALA, nor holders of medical fee waiver can pay a monthly fee of \$250 to receive support services in that month under the pilot scheme.)

**Major Eligibility Criteria**

- Elderly persons who are aged 60 or above; and
- patients diagnosed with mild or moderate dementia and referred by Geriatric/Psycho-geriatric Teams of the Hospital Authority; or members of District Elderly Community Centres suspected of having features of early dementia.

Assistance Programmes Completed



Since the establishment of the Community Care Fund, eight programmes have been completed. Details are set out in the following pages.





Subsidy for Low-income Elderly Tenants in Private Housing

Implementation Date

July 2012 to April 2013
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 087 households
(2 588 persons)

Funding Provision

\$11.2 million

Disbursements

Around \$10.35 million

Programme

Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing

(a subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person elderly household; \$8,000 for two-person elderly household; and \$12,000 for three-or-more-person elderly household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Households with elderly persons aged 65 or above;
- not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.



Subsidy for Low-income Persons who are Inadequately Housed

Implementation Date

October 2012 to July 2014
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

25 746 households
(58 968 persons)

Funding Provision

\$155.36 million

Disbursements

Around \$150.07 million

Programme

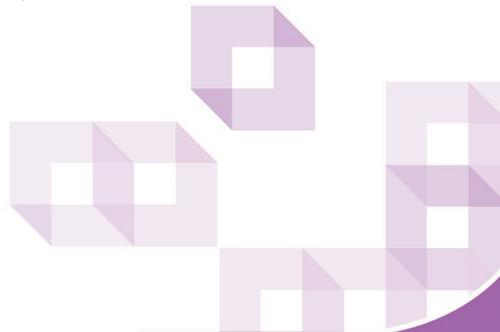
Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed

(a subsidy of \$3,000 for one-person household; \$6,000 for two-person household; and \$8,000 for three-or-more-person household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons renting on a monthly basis rooms/cubicles, cocklofts or bedspaces in private permanent housing; persons renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department's Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; or homeless persons;
- household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits;
- not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.



3

School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities)

Implementation Date

July 2011 to June 2014
(completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

74 115 persons

Funding Provision

\$191.46 million

Disbursements

Around \$185.85 million

Programme

Subsidise primary and secondary school students from low-income families to participate in cross-boundary learning activities/competitions

(a subsidy of not more than \$3,000 for each student beneficiary to participate in cross-boundary learning activities and competitions respectively)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- students receiving full or half grant from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency; or
- students meeting the “financially needy” criteria as determined by individual schools.

4

Subsidy for Elders who are on the Waiting List of Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases) for Household Cleaning and Escorting Services for Medical Consultations

Implementation Date

October 2011 to December 2014
(completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

1 341 persons

Funding Provision

\$10.78 million

Disbursements

Around \$10.26 million

Programme

Subsidy for elders aged 65 or above from low-income families who are on the waiting list of Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning and escorting services for medical consultations (a monthly subsidy of not more than \$560)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged 65 or above; living in the community; and have been on the waiting list of IHCS (Ordinary Cases) on or before 31 October 2012; and
- household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.



5

After-school Care Pilot Scheme

Implementation Date

September 2012 to July 2016
(completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

40 018 person-times

Funding Provision

\$125.66 million

Disbursements

Around \$122.55 million

Programme

Extend the after-school activities for Primary One to Secondary Three students from low-income families

(the subsidy cap for each project is \$500,000)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary One to Secondary Three students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or full grant from the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (expanded to cover Primary One to Secondary Three students receiving half grant in the 2013/14 school year); and
- participating schools or non-governmental organisations have discretion to include needy students who do not meet the above criteria, but the number of these students should not exceed 25% of the total number of student beneficiaries.

6

Provision of a One-off Special Subsidy for Students on Full Grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the Launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

Implementation Date

July 2015 to July 2016
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

129 116 persons

Funding Provision

\$465.77 million

Disbursements

Around \$464.82 million

Programme

To provide one-off financial assistance to needy families with school children prior to the implementation of the Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme

(to disburse a one-off subsidy of \$3,600 to each eligible primary and secondary student)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Primary and secondary students receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.



7

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

Implementation Date

December 2013 to December 2014
(first launch)

January 2015 to December 2015
(second launch)

January 2016 to December 2016
(third launch)
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

52 093 households (126 132 persons)
(first launch)

61 617 households (149 110 persons)
(second launch)

65 883 households (162 214 persons)
(third launch)

Funding Provision

\$403.89 million (first launch)

\$549.58 million (second launch)

\$598.45 million (third launch)

Disbursements

Around \$384.49 million (first launch)

Around \$531.35 million (second launch)

Around \$578.03 million (third launch)

Programme

One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA)

(third launch: a subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person household; \$8,000 for two-person household; \$11,000 for three-person household; \$13,000 for four-person household; and \$14,000 for five-or-more-person household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons renting on a monthly basis private permanent housing, industrial buildings or commercial buildings; persons renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department's Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; homeless persons; or persons residing in vessels;
- household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits;
- not receiving CSSA; and
- not owning any property in Hong Kong.

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Provision of a One-off Grant for School-related Expenses to Kindergarten Students

Implementation Date

September 2016 to August 2017
(a one-off subsidy programme which has been completed)

Beneficiary Statistics

41 943 kindergarten
(KG) students

Funding Provision

\$128.74 million

Disbursements

Around \$128.18 million

Programme

Provide timely support for needy families to defray school-related expenses incurred from their children's KG education other than school fees prior to the implementation of the new free quality KG education policy in the 2017/18 school year

(According to the results of the means test on their families, each eligible KG student (including students attending whole-day and half-day KG classes) may receive the full grant of \$3,770, 3/4 grant of \$2,828 or half grant of \$1,885.)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Students who have passed the means test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency;
- eligible for the KG and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme; and
- attending nursery, lower or upper classes in KGs under the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme in the 2016/17 school year.

Assistance Programmes In Progress



The Community Care Fund has rolled out assistance programmes under the medical, education, welfare, home affairs and housing areas. Brief introduction of these 26 programmes are set out in the following pages.





Subsidy for Patients for Specified Self-financed Cancer Drugs Which Have Not Yet Been Brought into the Samaritan Fund (SF)

Starting Date of Implementation

August 2011

Funding Provision

\$1099.08 million

(current funding provision for eight years of operation up to March 2020)
(including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and those of the programme on page seven of this booklet)

Beneficiary Statistics

11 824 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$856.48 million

Programme

Subsidy for patients of Hospital Authority for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the SF safety net but have been rapidly accumulating medical scientific evidence and with relatively higher efficacy

(to subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism and its sliding scale are adopted as the financial assessment criteria.

Progress and Evaluation

The programme initially covered six specified self-financed cancer drugs, and the coverage was expanded subsequently. With effect from 16 February 2019, the programme subsidises 22 specified self-financed cancer drugs for treatment of 14 types of cancer. One more specified self-financed cancer drug will be included in the coverage of the programme with effect from the third quarter of 2019.

The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund in May 2012.

The means test mechanism of the Programme has been enhanced since mid-February 2019. The enhancement measures include modifying the calculation of Annual Disposable Financial Resources for drug subsidy applications; and refining the definition of “household” adopted in financial assessment to alleviate the financial burden of patients.



Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2011

(extension of implementation for one year from 2012 to 2015 respectively, extension of implementation for two years in November 2016 and has been further extended for two years in November 2018)

Funding Provision

\$452.79 million

Beneficiary Statistics

14 124 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$315.95 million

Programme

Subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below 60 who are non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients, requiring constant attendance and living in the community

(according to the monthly household income of the applicants, the subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (\$2,000 per month); “3/4 grant” (\$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (\$1,000 per month))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged below 60, living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme as at 31 July 2018; and
- household income not exceeding 150% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

The Commission on Poverty approved in October 2018 to further extend the implementation of the programme in November 2018 to provide a maximum of 24 months of subsidy.

The evaluation results of the extended programme will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Recipients Living in Rented Private Housing

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2011 (first launch)
September 2013 (second launch)
September 2014 (third launch)
September 2015 (fourth launch)
September 2016 (extension of implementation)
November 2017 (relaunch for two years)

Beneficiary Statistics

22 605 households (first launch)
17 767 households (second launch)
14 991 households (third launch)
14 938 households (fourth launch)
15 458 households (extension of implementation in 2016)
31 178 households (relunched in 2017)

Funding Provision

\$33.67 million (first launch)
\$53.77 million (second launch)
\$46.83 million (third launch)
\$96.52 million (fourth launch & extension of implementation in 2016)
\$125.53 million (relunched in 2017)

Disbursements

Around \$32.09 million (first launch)
Around \$51.3 million (second launch)
Around \$44.58 million (third launch)
Around \$91.89 million (fourth launch & extension of implementation in 2016)
Around \$116.56 million (relunched in 2017)

Programme

Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme

(first launch: a subsidy of \$1,000 for one-person household; and \$2,000 for two-or-more-person household) (second to fourth launch and extension of implementation: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household) (relunched in 2017: calculation of the amount of subsidy will base on the reported rental records as at the relevant specified date, the monthly subsidy will be either 50% of the portion of the rental amount exceeding the applicable MRA or 15% of the applicable MRA, whichever is the less)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceeded the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at the specified date (the specified date for the first year is 31 July 2017; the specified date for the second year is 31 July 2018).

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results of the relunched programme will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

4

Relocation Allowance for Residents of Illegal Domestic Premises in Industrial Buildings who Have to Move out as a result of the Buildings Department's Enforcement Action

Starting Date of Implementation

December 2011
(a three-year enhanced scheme has been implemented since November 2017)

Beneficiary Statistics

171 households (270 persons)

Funding Provision

\$4.43 million

Disbursements

Around \$0.53 million

Programme

Relocation allowance for residents of illegal domestic premises in industrial buildings who have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement action

(an allowance of \$3,219 for one-person household; \$7,203 for two-to-three-person household; and \$9,454 for four-or-more-person household)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons who have passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, student financial assistance schemes, Hospital Authority Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism or Work Incentive Transport Subsidy; or
- household income not exceeding 100% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) for one-person households; and not exceeding 75% of the MMDHI for two-or-more-person households.

Progress and Evaluation

BD has inspected 158 target industrial buildings, and has so far identified premises of illegal domestic use in 53 of them. BD has taken enforcement action against these cases and enforcement action has been completed in 35 buildings. BD will continue to follow up the remaining cases.

The evaluation results of the enhanced programme will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Elderly Dental Assistance Programme

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2012

(expanded in September 2015, October 2016, July 2017 and February 2019 by phases to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) recipients aged 80 or above, aged 75 or above, aged 70 or above and aged 65 or above respectively, and extension of implementation for six months in September 2018 and has been further extended for three years in March 2019.)

Beneficiary Statistics

44 099 persons

Funding Provision

\$817.13 million

(including the funding provision for the expanded programme)

Disbursements

Around \$458.09 million

Programme

Subsidy for needy elders with low-income for removable dentures and other related dental services

(a maximum subsidy of \$15,350 for dental services for each beneficiary, a referral fee of \$50 for each referral by non-governmental organisations, and an accompanying service fee of \$70 per hour for applicants who are users of the home care/home help services (if applicable))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- (i) Aged 60 or above, being users of the “Integrated Home Care Services” or “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” or “Home Help Service” subvented by the Social Welfare Department and paying level 1 or level 2 fee charge of the said services, and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; or
- (ii) aged 65 or above and receiving OALA; and
- have not benefited from the Community Care Fund elderly dental assistance programme or the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly under the Department of Health.

Progress and Evaluation

The interim evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in September 2013.

6

Subsidy for Owners' Corporations of Old Buildings

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2012
(a three-year enhanced scheme which has been implemented since October 2015, and the Phase III of the Programme has been rolled out from October 2018 for three years.)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 723 owners' corporations

Funding Provision

\$67.2 million

Disbursements

Around \$34.11 million

Programme

Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings
(Eligible owners' corporations (OC) can be granted a subsidy for relevant expenditure items on an accountable basis. From 1 October 2018, each eligible OC may receive a maximum amount of total subsidy of \$24,000.)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Residential or composite buildings aged 30 years or above and with owners' corporations; and
- From 1 October 2018, average rateable value of the residential units does not exceed \$162,000 for urban area and \$124,000 for New Territories.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results of the enhanced scheme were reported to the Commission on Poverty in June 2018 which approved to roll out Phase III of the Programme starting from 1 October 2018.



Incentive Scheme to Further Encourage CSSA Recipients of the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) to Secure Employment

Starting Date of Implementation

April 2014
(a three-year pilot scheme) ^(Note 1)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 050 persons ^(Note 2)

Funding Provision

\$226.62 million

Disbursements

Around \$23.19 million ^(Note 3)

Programme

The earnings from employment exceeding the prescribed disregarded earnings limit (i.e. the earnings not disregarded) under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme will be accumulated in the form of incentive payment. When the amount of incentive payment accumulated reaches the incentive target or meets the requirements for release of payment, the Community Care Fund (CCF) will release the incentive payment to the participants.



Major Eligibility Criteria

- CSSA recipients of the IEAPS.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Note 1: The evaluation study of the incentive scheme is still in progress.

Note 2: This is the number of CSSA participants randomly selected from IEAPS cases who agree to participate in the Incentive Scheme, which is also the target number of beneficiaries of the Incentive Scheme. As at 31 March 2019, 24 participants accumulated the target amount of incentive payment, 16 participants accumulated 75% or above of the target amount of incentive payment at the end of the implementation period and 60 participants took up employment with income equal to / exceeding their recognised needs under CSSA, subsequent to which they left the CSSA net. The accumulated incentive payment was disbursed to these participants by the Social Welfare Department.

Note 3: The disbursement is for payment of accumulated incentive payment to the eligible participants and service fees to the non-governmental organisations which assist in implementing the incentive scheme.



Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families

Starting Date of Implementation

June 2014

(Phases I and II of the pilot scheme ended in September 2016 and September 2018 respectively; Phase III commenced in October 2018 for a two-year period)

Beneficiary Statistics

5 673 carers

Funding Provision

\$538.24 million (for three phases)

Disbursements

Around \$268.93 million

Programme

Provide living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families to help supplement their living expenses

(Phases I and II: a monthly allowance of \$2,000 is given to each eligible carer, and a maximum of \$4,000 per month is given to each of those carers taking care of more than one elderly person at the same time) (Phase III: a monthly allowance of \$2,400 is given to each eligible carer, and a maximum of \$4,800 per month is given to each of those carers taking care of more than one elderly person at the same time) ^(Note)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Elderly person(s) being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong, has/have been on the Central Waiting List for subsidised long-term care services on or before 30 November 2017, and must be living in the community without using any residential care services or undergoing long-term hospitalisation;
- the carer must be a Hong Kong resident living in Hong Kong, capable of taking up the care-giving role, has not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the elderly person(s) under his/her care, and is required to provide care-giving work of not less than the specified hours per month for the elderly person(s) under his/her care; and
- the carer must not be a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or Old Age Living Allowance and has a monthly household income not exceeding 75% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Note: 50 non-governmental organisations operating a total of 159 District Elderly Community Centres and/or Neighbourhood Elderly Centres help provide support services under Phase III of the pilot scheme.)



Providing Hostel Subsidy for Needy Undergraduate Students

Starting Date of Implementation

2014/15 academic year
(originally a three-year programme; extended for four more years to the 2020/21 academic year)

Beneficiary Statistics

27 177 person-times

Funding Provision

\$263.1 million

Disbursements

Around \$154.45 million

Programme

Provide hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students to meet student hostel expenses

(in the 2014/15 academic year, each eligible student was offered a hostel subsidy up to \$8,000 per year. The maximum amount in subsequent academic years is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Full-time undergraduates of publicly-funded or self-financing locally-accredited programmes at degree level;
- eligible applicants of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students and have passed the means test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency;
- resided in student hostels provided by their institutions; and
- confirmed by their institutions to have resided in student hostels in the semesters of the implementation period.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in April 2017 and April 2019 respectively. The evaluation results of the extended programme will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Increasing the Academic Expenses Grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students

Starting Date of Implementation

2014/15 academic year
(originally a three-year programme; extended for four more years to the 2020/21 academic year)

Beneficiary Statistics

98 258 person-times

Funding Provision

\$233.87 million

Disbursements

Around \$168.6 million

Programme

Additional academic expenses grant for eligible recipients of assistance under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP)

(in the 2014/15 academic year, each eligible student was provided an additional academic expenses grant up to \$2,000 per year. The maximum amount in subsequent academic years is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Full-time students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing programmes at sub-degree or degree level; and
- eligible applicants of the FASP who have passed the means test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in April 2017 and April 2019 respectively. The evaluation results of the extended programme will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Enhancing the Academic Expenses Grant for Students with Special Educational Needs and Financial Needs Pursuing Post-secondary Programmes

Starting Date of Implementation

2015/16 academic year
(originally a three-year programme; extended for three more years to the 2020/21 academic year)

Beneficiary Statistics

587 person-times

Funding Provision

\$12.46 million

Disbursements

Around \$4.4 million

Programme

Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes

(in the 2015/16 academic year, an additional academic expenses grant up to \$8,000 was provided to each eligible student per year. The maximum amount in subsequent academic years is subject to adjustment in line with the movement of the Consumer Price Index (A))



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible applicants of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students who have passed the means test of the Student Finance Office of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency; and
- confirmed by a relevant professional to have at least one type of SEN including specific learning difficulties, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, speech and language impairment, and mental illness from the 2017/18 academic year.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty in June 2018 which approved to extend the programme for three more years to the 2020/21 academic year.

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a three-year pilot scheme) ^(Note)

Beneficiary Statistics

21 630 persons

Funding Provision

\$98.75 million

Disbursements

Around \$47.63 million

Programme

Provide cervical cancer vaccination to teenage girls from eligible low-income families

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Girls aged nine to 18, who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; or
- female students aged nine or above, who are receiving full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS); or
- girls aged nine to 18 who are from households benefiting from the Working Family Allowance Scheme; or
- female students aged nine or above who are receiving half grant under the STAS.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Note: The deadline for accepting new cases and receiving the first dose of vaccine under the Pilot Scheme is extended by six months to the end of September 2019 in order to allow eligible applicants to complete the vaccination by receiving the second and/or third dose in the ensuing six months.

13

Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of Disregarded Earnings for Recipients with Disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

7 151 persons

Funding Provision

\$47.25 million

Disbursements

Around \$28.09 million

Programme

Raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings (DE) for disabled Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients from \$2,500 to \$4,000 each month, representing a 60% increase of the DE.

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Receiving CSSA and is medically certified to be disabled or in ill-health;
- engaging in paid employment and entitling to the DE arrangement under the CSSA Scheme; and
- being medically certified to be disabled or in ill-health continuously while enjoying the raised DE under the pilot scheme.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

14

Pilot Scheme on Providing Subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance Recipients in Paid Employment to Hire Carers

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

41 persons

Funding Provision

\$18.9 million

Disbursements

Around \$4.39 million

Programme

Provide a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 for Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) recipients in paid employment to hire carers.

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Receiving HDA under the Social Security Allowance Scheme (excluding persons being medically certified as “unfit for making a statement”);
- having secured paid employment (not applicable to persons engaged in self-employment or work-at-home jobs) with a monthly income of not less than \$7,500 and not exceeding \$30,000; and
- being gainfully employed but his/her relatives or friends are unable to provide care, and is in need of hiring a full-time carer (mainly foreign domestic helper) to assist in travelling between home and office (not applicable to work-at-home jobs).



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2016

(Phase I of the pilot scheme ended in September 2018; Phase II commenced in October 2018 for two years)

Beneficiary Statistics

2 250 persons

Funding Provision

\$224.22 million (for two phases)

Disbursements

Around \$98.96 million

Programme

Provide subsidy for low-income carers of persons with disabilities to render financial support for the concerned carers in need.

(Phase I of the pilot scheme: a monthly allowance of \$2,000 will be disbursed to an eligible carer, and a maximum of \$4,000 per month will be disbursed to those carers who take care of more than one person with disabilities at the same time) (Phase II of the pilot scheme: a monthly allowance of \$2,400 will be disbursed to an eligible carer, and a maximum of \$4,800 per month will be disbursed to those carers who take care of more than one person with disabilities at the same time)^(Note)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- The person(s) with disabilities being taken care of must be living in Hong Kong (HK), and have been on the waiting list for any one of the specified rehabilitation services under the Social Welfare Department (SWD) or special school with boarding placement under the Education Bureau or infirmary service of the Hospital Authority on or before a specified date; must be living in the community without using any residential care services/boarding service of special school/infirmary service and not undergoing long-term hospitalisation;
- the carer must be a HK resident living in HK, capable of taking up the care-giving role and has not engaged in any form of employment relationship with the person(s) with disabilities under his/her care, and is required to provide care-giving work of not less than the specified hours per month; and
- the carer must not be a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, Old Age Living Allowance, or allowance in respect of taking care of the same person with disabilities under the Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of elderly persons from low-income families; and the monthly household income of the carer must not exceed 75% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Note: The District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, Parents/Relatives Resource Centres and Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness under subvention of SWD will assist to provide support services under the pilot scheme.

Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those for Treating Uncommon Disorders)

Starting Date of Implementation

August 2017

Funding Provision

\$203.44 million

(current funding provision for two years of operation up to March 2020)

Beneficiary Statistics

23 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$76.24 million

Programme

Subsidy for eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs, including those for treating uncommon disorders

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Hospital Authority patients who meet specific clinical criteria and pass means test conducted by Medical Social Workers; and
- permanent resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



Progress and Evaluation

The drug, Eculizumab for treating Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria, was introduced to the coverage of the Programme at its initial phase. Relaxation of clinical indication for Eculizumab was subsequently approved by the Commission on Poverty, to cover the treatment of atypical Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome. The coverage of the Programme was expanded in September 2018 to include Nusinersen for treating Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and will be further expanded with effect from the third quarter of 2019 to include Tafamidis for treating Transthyretin Familial Amyloid Polyneuropathy.

The means test mechanism of the Programme has been enhanced since January 2019. The enhancement measures include modifying the calculation of Annual Disposable Financial Resources for drug subsidy applications; and refining the definition of “household” adopted in financial assessment to alleviate the financial burden of patients.

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Subsidy for Eligible Patients of Hospital Authority to Purchase Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures

Starting Date of Implementation

August 2017

Funding Provision

\$48.53 million

(current funding provision for two years of operation up to March 2020)

Beneficiary Statistics

81 person-times

Disbursements

Around \$20.99 million

Programme

Subsidy for eligible patients of Hospital Authority (HA) to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures (interventional medical devices)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- HA patients who meet specific clinical criteria and pass means test conducted by Medical Social Workers.



Progress and Evaluation

The Programme initially covered two specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures and was subsequently expanded by phases to cover five medical devices starting from mid-February 2019. The coverage of the existing medical device "Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation" will be expanded with effect from the third quarter of 2019.

The means test mechanism of the Programme has been enhanced since mid-February 2019 by refining the definition of "household" adopted in financial assessment to alleviate the financial burden of patients.

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

18

Subsidy for Persons Holding Non-local Qualifications to Conduct Qualifications Assessment

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2017
(a three-year programme)

Beneficiary Statistics

81 persons

Funding Provision

\$8.67 million

Disbursements

\$0.18 million

Programme

Subsidy for eligible non-local qualification holders with financial needs to apply for qualifications assessment for general purpose conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Persons and/or their spouses who have passed the means test establishing eligibility for assistance under the specified assistance schemes provided below and receiving financial assistance: Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, Low-Income Working Family Allowance Scheme/Working Family Allowance Scheme, Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme, School Textbook Assistance Scheme (full grant only) or Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme (full and 3/4 fee remission only).

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Pilot Scheme on Providing Special Subsidy for Persons with Permanent Stoma from Low-income Families for Purchasing Medical Consumables

Starting Date of Implementation

September 2017
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

502 persons

Funding Provision

\$50.64 million

Disbursements

Around \$5.54 million

Programme

Subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families for purchasing medical consumables

(According to the family asset and monthly household income of the eligible applicant, the monthly subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" \$1,000; "3/4 grant" \$750 or "half grant" \$500)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Confirmed to have permanent stoma (excretory stoma) by Medical Officer/Nurse of a public hospital/clinic/Surgical Specialist on the Specialist Register of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (only applicable to applicant not receiving surgical treatment in public hospital/clinic);
- must not be a recipient of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, the monthly household income must not exceed 150% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income, the family's asset must not exceed the asset limit for public rental housing application under the Housing Authority;
- without receiving any relevant subsidy for purchasing medical consumables for the stoma from other funding sources; and
- living in the community, residential care homes or boarding schools; or being hospitalised but with a concrete discharge plan.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Pilot Scheme on Relaxing the Household Income Limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for Low-income Families and Increasing Fee-waiving Subsidy Places

Starting Date of Implementation

October 2017
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

620 persons

Funding Provision

\$52 million

Disbursements

Around \$2.56 million

Programme

Relaxing the household income limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for low-income families and increasing fee-waiving subsidy places

(According to the monthly household income of the families, eligible children will be granted full-fee waiving, half-fee reduction or 1/3-fee reduction subsidy)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Children aged six to 12 receiving services under the After School Care Programme;
- their parents are unable to take care of them after school for reasons of attending work, seeking open employment or participating in employment retraining courses/job attachment or due to other reasons; and
- their monthly household income must not exceed 100% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Pilot Scheme on Subsidised Cervical Cancer Screening and Preventive Education for Eligible Low-income Women

Starting Date of Implementation

December 2017
(a three-year programme)

Beneficiary Statistics

412 persons

Funding Provision

\$78.61 million

Disbursements

Around \$0.24 million

Programme

Subsidy of cervical screening and preventive education for eligible low-income women.

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Women aged 25 to 64 who ever had sex or women aged 65 or above who ever had sex and have not received routine cervical cancer screening in the past ten years; and
- women receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance/holding Level 0 voucher under the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly; or receiving waiver of medical charges under the medical fee waiving mechanism of public hospitals and clinics can receive free service; or
- women receiving Normal/Higher Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)^(Note); or be granted Working Family Allowance or Work Incentive Transport Subsidy for any of the past 12 months; or having household member(s) granted subsidy/remission under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme or the Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Fee Remission Scheme can pay a fee of \$100 to receive the service.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Note: Higher OALA recipients who are holders of the Certificate of Higher Old Age Living Allowance Recipients (for Medical Waivers) will be exempted from payment.

Starting Date of Implementation

December 2017
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

1 971 persons

Funding Provision

\$383.34 million

Disbursements

Around \$31.65 million

Programme

Provide home care and support services for elderly persons with mild impairment

(Eligible elderly persons are required to make co-payment with the amount determined based on their monthly household income. The pilot scheme adopts five co-payment categories on a sliding scale)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged 60 or above and living in the community;
- assessed to be of mild impairment by the designated assessment tool;
- waitlisting for the Integrated Home Care Services (Ordinary Cases); and
- with a monthly household income not exceeding a specified percentage of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (i.e. not exceeding 175% for one-person households and not exceeding 150% for two-or-more-person households).



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the "Community Housing Movement"

Starting Date of Implementation

December 2017
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

212 households

Funding Provision

\$7.22 million

Disbursements

Around \$1.49 million

Programme

Subsidy for low-income households under the "Community Housing Movement" (CHM) to pay for removal expenses

(Eligible households will be granted an one-off relocation allowance: \$3,076 for one-person households, \$7,028 for two-to-three-person households, and \$9,263 for four-or-more-person households)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant and household member(s) residing with him/her shall be a beneficiary household under the CHM; and
- the monthly personal/household income must not exceed the income limit for public rental housing applications under the Hong Kong Housing Authority.

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Starting Date of Implementation

February 2018
(a three-year pilot scheme)

Beneficiary Statistics

465 persons

Funding Provision

\$225.9 million

Disbursements

Around \$19.67 million

Programme

Through medical-social collaboration, eligible elderly persons who cannot take care of themselves during rehabilitation will be provided with transitional residential care and/or community care and support services.

(Eligible elderly persons are required to make co-payment with the amount determined based on their monthly household income. The pilot scheme adopts six co-payment categories on a sliding scale)

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Aged 60 or above; and
- assessed by medical staff of Hospital Authority to have temporary loss of self-care ability due to illness and in need of transitional care and support (i.e. in need of temporary residential care and/or community care and support services) and are not covered under the existing “Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients”.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Provision of Subsidy to Needy Primary and Secondary Students for Purchasing Mobile Computer Devices to Facilitate the Practice of e-Learning

Starting Date of Implementation

2018/19 school year
(a three-school year programme)

Funding Provision

\$415.54 million

Beneficiary Statistics

About 17 000 persons
(2018/19 school year)

Disbursements

Around \$75 million

Programme

Subsidy for needy primary and secondary students for purchasing mobile computer devices to facilitate the practice of e-learning

(In 2018/19 school year, the subsidy is up to \$4,500 for students receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) /full grant and \$2,250 for students receiving half grant. The maximum level of subsidy is adjusted annually according to the movement of the Composite Consumer Price Index.)



Major Eligibility Criteria

- Students studying in public sector primary or secondary schools and receiving CSSA or full/half grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme; and
- studying in schools and classes implementing e-learning and adopting "Bring Your Own Device".

Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.

Starting Date of Implementation

April 2019

(The expected construction period under the Pilot Scheme is about one year)

Funding Provision

\$35.74 million

Beneficiary Statistics

(as the pilot scheme has just been rolled out, data are not yet available)

Disbursements

(as the pilot scheme has just been rolled out, data are not yet available)

Programme

Subsidy to purchase and construct modular social housing to facilitate the implementation of the Modular Social Housing Scheme – Nam Cheong Street

Major Eligibility Criteria

- Proven to be in need of transitional housing (e.g. queued for Public Rental Housing for at least three years); or
- living in inadequate housing conditions; or
- low-income and in urgent need for community support.



Progress and Evaluation

The evaluation results will be reported to the Community Care Fund Task Force in future.



Way Forward

Over the past eight years, the Community Care Fund (CCF) rolled out various assistance programmes in response to the need of people in the community in a caring, flexible and innovative manner. In addition, through the continuous review and evaluation mechanism under the CCF, relevant Government departments/organisations responsible for implementing the programmes could draw on experience gained and collect data as soon as possible to determine which programmes need to be revised or extended, or have been proven effective for consideration of incorporating into the Government's regular assistance programmes.

The CCF will continue to plug the gaps in the existing system and, taking into account the views of the public and stakeholders, launch more programmes to provide appropriate assistance to the underprivileged and low-income families.



We would like to acknowledge the provision of some photographs by the following organisations: (in alphabetical order)

- ♥ **Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications**
- ♥ **Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority**
- ♥ **Hospital Authority**
- ♥ **The Hong Kong Council of Social Service**
- ♥ **Vocational Training Council**



Community Care Fund Website

<http://www.communitycarefund.hk>

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
certified paper is used