Community Care Fund
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• The aim of the establishment of the Community Care Fund (CCF) is to provide assistance to people with financial difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but still have some 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.

• Since its establishment in 2011, the CCF has launched 45 assistance programmes covering medical, education, welfare and home affairs areas for various target beneficiary groups. The Government has so far incorporated 12 programmes under the CCF into its regular assistance programmes.
The nine new assistance programmes implemented in 2017

- In 2017, the CCF rolled out nine new assistance programmes covering low-income persons from various beneficiary groups, including elderly persons, patients, persons holding non-local qualifications and women. In addition, the CCF also strives for enhancing or extending existing programmes so that the assistance being provided can be more appropriate and effective.

Dementia community support scheme (Rolled out in February 2017, a two-year scheme)
A pilot scheme to provide dementia support services for elderly persons at the community level based on a medical-social collaboration model. Total funding provision is around $99 million. It is expected to benefit about 2,000 elderly persons.

Subsidy for eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs (Rolled out in August 2017, the first budget will cover 20 months)
Subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority (HA) who are in financial difficulty and who meet specific clinical criteria to purchase ultra-expensive drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders). Total funding provision is around $117 million. It is expected to benefit about 11 to 19 patients in the first 12 months.

Subsidy for eligible patients of Hospital Authority to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures (Rolled out in August 2017, the first budget will cover 20 months)
Subsidy for needy HA patients who are in financial difficulty and who meet specific clinical criteria to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures. Total funding provision is around $17 million. It is expected to benefit about 42 patients in the first 12 months.
Subsidy for persons holding non-local qualifications to conduct qualifications assessment (Rolled out in September 2017, a three-year programme)

Needy persons holding non-local qualifications are subsidised to apply for qualifications assessment for general purpose conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. Total funding provision is around $9 million. It is expected to benefit about 3,000 persons.

Pilot scheme on providing special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families for purchasing medical consumables (Rolled out in September 2017, a three-year pilot scheme)

A special subsidy for persons with permanent stoma from low-income families to purchase medical consumables in order to relieve their financial burden. Total funding provision is around $51 million. It is expected to benefit about 1,500 persons.

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 (Rolled out in October 2017, a three-year pilot scheme)

The household income limit of the Fee-waiving Subsidy Scheme under the After School Care Programme for low-income families will be relaxed and fee-waiving subsidy places be increased in order to enhance support to those families. Total funding provision is around $52 million. It is expected to benefit about 3,000 persons.
Pilot scheme on subsidised cervical cancer screening and preventive education for eligible low-income women (Rolled out in December 2017, a three-year pilot scheme)
Subsidised cervical cancer screening and preventive education are provided to eligible low-income women through non-governmental organisations. Total funding provision is around $79 million. It is expected to benefit about 67,000 women.

Pilot scheme on home care and support for elderly persons with mild impairment (Rolled out in December 2017, a three-year pilot scheme)
Elderly persons with mild impairment will be provided with home care and support services to cater for their service needs. Total funding provision is around $383 million. It is expected that around 4,000 places will be provided.

Pilot scheme on relocation allowance for beneficiaries of the "Community Housing Movement" (CHM) (Rolled out in December 2017, a three-year pilot scheme)
Subsidy for low-income households participating in the CHM to pay for relocation expenses. Total funding provision is around $7 million. It is expected to benefit about 1,000 households.
Beneficiary Cases

Case (1) Elderly dental assistance programme

- The CCF introduced in September 2012 the Elderly dental assistance programme (the Programme) to provide free removable dentures and other related dental services for eligible elders. To benefit more elders who have financial difficulties and do not receive Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, the Programme expanded in phases to cover elders receiving Old Age Living Allowance (OALA). Starting from July 2017, OALA recipients aged 70 or above are eligible for the Programme. Total funding provision is around $817 million. So far, more than 34,000 elders have joined the Programme.

- Mr and Mrs Tse received free removable dentures and other related dental services from the “community care dentists” under the Programme. With the dentures, they could enjoy their favourite food without worrying about indigestion caused by chewing difficulties.

Mr and Mrs Tse were both very satisfied with the Programme and impressed by the care and patience of the “community care dentists.”
Case (2) Dementia community support scheme

- Chung Gor, 64-year-old, was diagnosed of dementia in 2016 but he continued to work as a part-time taxi driver. Due to poor memory and sense of direction, he sometimes took the wrong route and was misunderstood by passengers as making intentional detour. The cognitive conditions of Chung Gor continued to deteriorate and generated tremendous stress on his carer.

- After receiving the training, Chung Gor’s mood and motivation have significantly improved. He also accepted the advice of his family to reduce his working hours and has fully retired in the end. He is now joining different interest groups and maintains harmonious relationship with other group members. Noting that Chung Gor has more positive attitude with extended social circle, the stress of his carer has been alleviated.

Chung Gor (left) joins “Walk Along with You” organised by the district elderly community centre. He receives training twice a week. The centre also arranges individual and personalised training for Chung Gor to develop his interest in playing chess and arranges a volunteer who is a skillful chess player to play chess with him.

Donation is welcome

- Donors can make donations to the Community Care Fund through bank accounts or make cheques payable to “Community Care Fund”:
  - Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited account number “012-875-00451480”
  - The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited account number “004-848-027256-001”
  - Address of the Community Care Fund Secretariat: 4/F, Southern Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

For detailed information regarding the above-mentioned programmes, please visit the CCF website at - http://www.communitycarefund.hk

Community Care Fund Secretariat
January 2018

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