

The Community Care Fund
Brief on “Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled” Programme
(Extended Programme in 2020)

For reference by persons who are benefiting from the Programme

Background and Objective

The Community Care Fund (CCF) launched the programme of “Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled” (the Programme) in September 2011, which aims at providing severely disabled persons who are living in the community and not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance with a special care subsidy for use in purchasing care goods and services or for other purposes related to nursing care. The Programme was extended in November 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 respectively. Application under the extended Programme in 2018 was closed on 28 February 2019. **CCF now extends the Programme up to end-September 2023 under the current mode of operation to continue to provide the subsidy for existing beneficiaries under the extended Programme in 2018 for a maximum of 35 months provided that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.** The Programme is continuously administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

Payment of Subsidy

- Existing beneficiaries **are not required** to submit fresh applications, and they will receive the subsidy from SWD on a quarterly basis in accordance with current arrangements.
- The subsidy will be granted for a maximum of 35 months on condition that the existing beneficiary remains aged below 60 and receiving Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) during the period of subsidy under the extended Programme (i.e. from July 2020 to May 2023). If the beneficiary is no longer receiving HDA or has attained the age of 60 during the period concerned, the subsidy will be payable to him/her until the calendar month following the month when the relevant change takes place ^(Note).
- SWD determines the rate of subsidy an existing beneficiary is entitled to for the whole period based on the average monthly household income for the three months prior to submission of application in the extended Programme in 2018 (i.e. not exceeding 100%, or over 100% to 125%, or over 125% to 150% of the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income). The rate of subsidy is set as full grant (\$2,000 per month), three-quarters grant (\$1,500 per month) or half grant (\$1,000 per month). Existing beneficiaries will continue to receive the subsidy approved

during the extension of the Programme in 2018 provided that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

- Payment of subsidy will be made on a quarterly basis. From the end of February 2021 onwards, SWD will deposit the first quarter's subsidy directly into the bank accounts of eligible persons used for receiving HDA, and will thereafter regularly verify the subsidy that individual eligible persons are entitled to and arrange payment accordingly on a quarterly basis.

Responsibilities of Applicants/Guardians/Appointees

Information provided by applicants/guardians/appointees must be true, correct and complete. In case of any changes of the relevant information, they should report the changes to the CCF Team of SWD as soon as possible. Any subsidy certified as overpayment will have to be paid back.

Note : The subsidy will be terminated starting from the calendar month following the month when the beneficiary becomes ineligible during the period from July 2020 to May 2023. If he/she becomes eligible for the Programme again (i.e. receiving HDA again and being still aged below 60) during the period concerned, he/she may approach the CCF Team of SWD for re-application on or before 30 September 2023. SWD will arrange payment of the subsidy he/she is entitled to based on his/her relevant circumstances during the aforementioned period.

Enquiries

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