

The Community Care Fund
Brief on “Pilot scheme on providing subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance recipients in paid employment to hire carers”
(Extended Pilot Scheme in 2020)

Brief

The Community Care Fund (CCF) has launched a three-year “Pilot scheme on providing subsidy for Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) recipients in paid employment to hire carers” (the Pilot Scheme) since October 2016 and extended for 12 months in October 2019. The Pilot Scheme aims to provide subsidy for HDA recipients engaged in paid employment to hire carers with a view to encouraging them to sustain employment. The Pilot Scheme is administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). The application for the Pilot Scheme was closed on 31 March 2018. **CCF now further extends the Pilot Scheme under the current mode of operation for 36 months till end-September 2023 to continue to provide the subsidy to existing beneficiaries provided that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.**

Payment of Subsidy

- Each eligible person will be granted a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 to hire a carer. The subsidy will be disbursed on a quarterly basis and credited to the bank account the beneficiary uses for receiving HDA payments.
- 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. Should an employment contract (must be in compliance with the relevant legislation in Hong Kong) between an eligible person and a carer be signed within the extension period of the Pilot Scheme (i.e. on or before 30 September 2023) and remain valid at the end of the Pilot Scheme, SWD will continue to provide the subsidy to the eligible person concerned beyond the period of the Pilot Scheme until the completion of the employment contract as approved during the further extension period of the Pilot Scheme.
- During disbursement of the subsidy, SWD will regularly verify whether the beneficiaries remain eligible for the subsidy. The beneficiaries are required to submit once every 6 months the relevant proof of income from paid employment, the employment contract with the hired carer and records of salary payments to the carer for checking.
- On receipt of the subsidy, if the beneficiary fails to meet the eligibility criteria due to his/her being temporarily ineligible for HDA, changes in his/her paid employment or termination of employment of the carer, etc., a grace period up to a

maximum of 3 months will be granted, during which the payment of subsidy will continue. After the grace period, if the above-mentioned circumstance(s) remain unchanged, the payment of subsidy to the beneficiary will cease in the first month following the end of the grace period.

- In case the beneficiary, whose payment of subsidy has been ceased during the further extension period of the Pilot Scheme and becomes eligible again before the Pilot Scheme ends (i.e. on or before 30 September 2023), he/she may contact the CCF Team of SWD and make a fresh application (he/she should fill in new application forms and submit necessary documents, including documentary evidence of income from the paid employment and the employment contract with the carer for verifying his/her eligibility).

Responsibilities of the Applicant

Applicants should read carefully the “Declaration and Undertaking by Applicant” (Part 6) of the application form and sign for confirmation. Moreover, information provided by the applicant must be accurate and complete. In case of any change of the relevant information, the applicant must notify the CCF Team of SWD as soon as possible. During disbursement of the subsidy, the beneficiary is required to submit relevant documents regularly for checking and verifying his/her continuous eligibility. The beneficiary must refund any overpaid subsidy to SWD once confirmed.

Enquiries

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