

Brief on “Training Subsidy Programme for Children on the Waiting List of Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services”

Background and Purpose

Implemented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the “Training Subsidy Programme for Children on the Waiting List of Subvented Pre-school Rehabilitation Services” (TSP) supports eligible children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services. TSP enables these children to receive training from Recognised Service Providers (RSPs) as early as possible while awaiting service placement, thereby addressing their learning and developmental needs.

Target Beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries of TSP are children who meet ALL of the following criteria:

- (1) below the age of six and on the waiting list under the Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services - Subsystem for Disabled Pre-schoolers (CRSRehab-PS)¹;
- (2) not receiving any subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, including the Transitional Early Education and Training Centre or the School-based Model of Pre-school Rehabilitation Services² (School-based Model); and
- (3) whose monthly household income does not exceed 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) published by the Census and Statistics Department at the time of application. *[Not applicable to children on the waiting list for Special Child Care Centres (SCCCs), including Residential Special Child Care Centres (RSCCCs)]*

Levels of Subsidy and Services

The training subsidy will be disbursed to RSPs, instead of being directly disbursed to parents/guardians. The following two levels of subsidy will be provided for children according to their levels of disability:

- (1) **Normal Level Subsidy**³: The service content for each child on the waiting list for Early Education and Training Centre (EETC) or Integrated Programmes in KG-cum-Child Care Centre (IP)² includes:

¹ As the On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services (OPRS) has achieved “zero waiting time”, children who newly apply for OPRS will no longer be target beneficiaries of TSP with effect from 1 October 2026.

² With the phased implementation of the School-based Model, children eligible for IP will receive services directly through the School-based Model without being waitlisted through the CRSRehab-PS. Hence, children who newly apply for IP will no longer be target beneficiaries of TSP with effect from 1 April 2027.

³ The training service is mainly delivered by special child care workers. Appropriate therapist sessions will be arranged by RSPs in accordance with the training needs of the children.

- (i) **Four sessions** of individual or group training/therapy services **totaling three hours per month**, provided by special child care workers, clinical/educational psychologists, or occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists (including parallel groups with the participation of parents/guardians/carers at the same time); and
 - (ii) **Six hours** of individual assessment and/or family support services **in a year**, provided by special child care workers, clinical/educational psychologists, occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists, or registered social workers.
- (2) **Higher Level Subsidy:** The service content for each child on the waiting list for SCCC (including RSCCC) includes:
- (i) **Six sessions** of individual or group training/therapy services **totaling six hours per month**, provided by special child care workers, clinical/educational psychologists, or occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists (including parallel groups with the participation of parents/guardians/carers at the same time), with at least 18 hours of training/therapy sessions provided by occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists every six months; and
 - (ii) **Six hours** of individual assessment and/or family support services **in a year**, provided by special child care workers, clinical/educational psychologists, occupational therapists/physiotherapists/speech therapists, or registered social workers.

RSPs will conduct assessments for eligible children, provide recommendations, and arrange the recommended type of services with the consent of their parents/guardians.

Service Allocation via CRSRehab-PS

During the period in which a child beneficiary receives the training subsidy, his/her application under CRSRehab-PS remains valid. Once he/she accepts the service allocated through CRSRehab-PS, the service provided under TSP will be terminated. If the child beneficiary refuses to accept the service allocated through CRSRehab-PS, he/she may continue to receive the training subsidy until 1 September following his/her sixth birthday, or until he/she is admitted to a primary or special school, whichever is earlier. However, upon refusal of the service allocated through CRSRehab-PS, his/her application for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services will be removed from the waiting list.

Application Procedures

SWD will send invitation letters to parents/guardians of children currently waitlisted for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services, inviting eligible children to apply for TSP. The original completed application form, together with copies of the required documents, shall be submitted by post or in person to the Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services Branch of SWD, or submitted online. The application is free of charge. Applicants should immediately report to law enforcement agencies if anyone solicits benefits under the pretext of assisting with an application. Attempted bribery by any person is an offence in law, and such cases will be referred to law enforcement agencies for investigation.

Parents/guardians may choose, in order of priority, up to three service units operated by RSPs in the application. Taking into account the availability of service places, SWD will, as far as possible, arrange an RSP service unit for an eligible child in accordance with the parents'/guardians' preferences. The beneficiary child should continue to receive services from the same service unit to ensure progressive and continuous training in a stable learning environment. Should a change of RSP be necessary due to special circumstances (such as a change of residence), the parents/guardians must submit an application to SWD through the current RSP.

Information provided by parents/guardians in their child's application must be accurate and complete. Should there be any changes to such information, parents/guardians shall notify SWD as soon as possible. Any additional service costs exceeding the subsidy ceiling shall be borne by the parents/guardians.

Means Test

Children on the waiting list for SCCC (including RSCCC) are eligible for TSP without undergoing a family income test.

Parents/guardians of children on the waiting list for EETC or IP must ensure that their monthly family income at the time of application does not exceed 75% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) published by the Census and Statistics Department. MMDHI for the latest quarter is available on the SWD website.

The means test is conducted on a family basis, meaning that the income of all family members residing with the child in Hong Kong, including father, mother, brothers and sisters (legally recognised adoptive parents/children and illegitimate children with proof of parentage are also included) will be included in the assessment.

The monthly household income is calculated based on the average monthly income for the three months prior to submission of the application (Income not paid on a monthly basis, such as

double pay or bonuses, should be apportioned over the period concerned when calculating the average.). Income includes the following items:

- (1) Employment earnings: salary, double pay/leave pay, work allowance, bonus/prize/commission/tips, income from rendering services, business profits, etc.
- (2) Other income: contributions from children, financial assistance from relatives/friends, alimony, monthly pension payments/widow's and orphans' payments or pensions, payouts from the annuity scheme(s), investment profits, interest income from fixed deposits, dividends, rental income, etc.

Income excludes employee's mandatory contribution to the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme, financial assistance provided by the Government, charitable donations, and subsidies from assistance programmes of Community Care Fund.

Vetting of Applications

When submitting an application, parents/guardians must provide family income information in the application form, but are not required to submit detailed proof of income. SWD may conduct random checks on selected cases during the processing of applications or after the relevant services have been arranged. In such cases, the parents/guardians of the child concerned must provide detailed income information and any relevant documents for verification purposes.

Enquiry

Address	:	Room 745, 7/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel. No.	:	3791 2711
Fax No.	:	3791 2140
Email	:	tspenq@swd.gov.hk
Office Hours	:	Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm (Lunch break from 1 pm to 2 pm)
SWD Website	:	www.swd.gov.hk
e-Submission link	:	https://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/swd053/en/

Social Welfare Department
Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services