

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Additional Provision for Social Security Recipients

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the Administration's proposal to provide an extra payment to recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), Old Age Allowance (OAA) and Disability Allowance (DA).

Proposal

2. To help ease the pressure of the economic downturn on our community, the Chief Executive in the 2011-12 Policy Address and the Financial Secretary in the 2012-13 Budget proposed that a one-off extra payment be provided to recipients of CSSA, OAA and DA. Details are set out below.

3. For CSSA recipients, the extra payment will be equivalent to one month of the standard rates. Different standard rates are applicable to different categories of recipients (such as elderly persons, children or able-bodied adults). The following are examples of the standard rate payments for different CSSA households –

Single person able-bodied elder	:	\$2,820
Single person able-bodied adult	:	\$1,990
A 2-member CSSA family comprising one able-bodied elder and one 100% disabled elder	:	\$5,680
A 3-member CSSA family comprising one single parent and two able-bodied school children	:	\$5,510
A 4-member CSSA family comprising two able-bodied adults (one of them	:	\$6,330

being a family carer) and two able-bodied school children

4. For OAA and DA recipients, the extra payment will be equivalent to one additional month of the allowance, the current rates of which are as follows –

OAA	:	\$1,090
Normal DA	:	\$1,395
Higher DA	:	\$2,790

5. We estimate that about 1.1 million people, including 440 000 CSSA recipients, 520 000 OAA recipients and 140 000 DA recipients, will benefit from this proposal.

Financial implications

6. The estimated financial implication of the one-off payments is about \$2,079 million (including \$1,257 million for CSSA, \$587 million for OAA and \$235 million for DA). The Administration will submit the funding proposal to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council for approval in May/June this year.

Implementation

7. Subject to FC's approval, the Social Welfare Department will make necessary adjustments to its computer system to implement the proposal in July this year.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
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