

For information
on 26 January 2016

Legislative Council Subcommittee on Poverty

Community Care Fund

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the work progress of the Community Care Fund (CCF) and seeks Members' views in this regard.

Background

2. The CCF is a trust fund established in early 2011 under the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1044) with the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated as its trustee. Its main objective is to provide assistance to people facing economic difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but have special circumstances that are not covered. In addition, the CCF may consider implementing measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that can be considered for incorporation into its regular assistance and service programmes.

3. The CCF has since 2013 been integrated into the work of the reinstated Commission on Poverty (CoP)¹. The CCF Task Force, set up under the CoP as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, is responsible for advising the CoP on the CCF's various arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes, the co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of assistance programmes, and the evaluation of their effectiveness. The CCF Task Force will also liaise closely with other CoP task forces and provide mutual support, so as to draw up programmes to provide assistance to the underprivileged.

¹ The CoP was re-organised in December 2014. To deal with various issues more effectively, four task forces were set up under the second-term CoP to conduct an in-depth study and deliberate on specific areas respectively, namely the CCF Task Force, the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force, the Special Needs Groups Task Force, and the Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force.

4. The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved the injection of \$5 billion into the CCF in May 2011, and approved in July the same year an additional injection of \$1.5 billion to implement a programme to provide an allowance for new arrivals². The FC also approved in June 2013 an additional injection of \$15 billion into the CCF to strengthen the poverty alleviation efforts.

Work Progress

Assistance Programmes

5. Since its establishment, the CCF has launched 30 assistance programmes under the medical, education, housing, welfare and home affairs areas for target beneficiary groups including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, patients, new arrivals, ethnic minorities, etc. People outside the existing social safety net or the coverage of the Government's short-term relief measures have been identified and provided with assistance. The total commitment exceeded \$6.237 billion. As at the end of December 2015, more than 1 220 000 person-times³ have benefited under these programmes, and the CCF has disbursed around \$3.805 billion to various implementing agencies⁴. The latest progress of various programmes is set out at the Annex.

6. The CCF also implemented measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those initiatives that have been proven effective for incorporation into the regular assistance programme. Since its establishment in 2011, the eleven pilot programmes below have been incorporated into the regular assistance programme:

- (1) The programme providing subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority who marginally fall outside the Samaritan Fund safety net for the use of Samaritan Fund subsidised

² The FC approved on 18 July 2011 an additional injection of \$1.5 billion into the CCF to implement the programme. The FC also agreed that the CCF should handle the injection separately from the existing funds of the CCF. Unused funds (including interest), if any, will be returned in full to the Government upon completion of the programme. As at now, an amount of \$301 million has been returned to the Government.

³ Excluding around 200 000 people who have benefited from the programme of providing an allowance to new arrivals.

⁴ Including the disbursements to beneficiaries and the staffing and administrative expenses of implementing agencies.

drugs;

- (2) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language examinations;
- (3) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses;
- (4) Subsidy for Tenants Purchase Scheme flat owners on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- (5) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families;
- (6) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme;
- (7) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level;
- (8) Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services;
- (9) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment;
- (10) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment; and
- (11) Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students.

The above regularised programmes will involve an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$720 million.

7. After briefing this Subcommittee on the work progress of the CCF in July 2015, the CCF has launched the following three assistance programmes:

- (1) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance

Scheme: In the 2015/16 school year, primary and secondary students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme will be provided, under this programme, with a one-off special subsidy so that timely assistance can be made available to support students from low-income families before the launch of Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme. Each student will be given a special subsidy of \$3,600. The total funding provision for the programme is about \$500 million. Disbursement of the subsidy has begun at the end of July 2015, and about 120 000 primary and secondary students have benefited from the programme to date.

- (2) Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators: In the 2015/16 school year, ordinary schools admitting a relatively large number or percentage of students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs will be provided with a cash subsidy under this programme to designate a teacher for co-ordinating the support measures relating to SEN and enhance the effectiveness of integrated education implemented in schools. The total funding provision for the three-year programme will amount to around \$200 million. A total of 124 schools (65 secondary schools and 59 primary schools) participated in the pilot project, benefitting about 9 000 students with SEN each year.
- (3) Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes: In the 2015/16 school year, students with SEN pursuing post-secondary programmes will be provided with an additional academic expenses grant with an aim to enhance the support to post-secondary students with SEN and financial needs. Each beneficiary student will be disbursed with an additional academic expenses grant of \$8,000 at most per year. The total funding provision for the three-year programme will amount to around \$12 million.

8. Through continuous review of the existing programmes, the CCF can also timely identify which programmes need to be revised or extended, so that the assistance can be provided in an effective manner. In this connection, the CCF re-launched the programme of providing Subsidy for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients

living in rented private housing, with a view to providing a subsidy to CSSA households living in rented private housing and paying a rent which exceeded the maximum rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme. The CCF also introduced a three-year enhanced programme to provide subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings so that more owners' corporations in need will benefit from the programme. In addition, the programme of Special care subsidy for the severely disabled has been extended to provide a special care subsidy for persons with severe disabilities who are living in the community, in need of regular care and not receiving the CSSA. Moreover, to benefit more elders who have financial difficulties and do not receive CSSA, the CCF has expanded the Elderly dental assistance programme from September 2015 to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) recipients by phases, starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase involving some 130 000 elders. Given that the total number of OALA recipients exceeds 420 000, the CCF will consider expanding the target beneficiaries to other age groups progressively, having regard to the progress of implementation and the overall manpower situation in the local dental profession.

9. In addition, the CCF has just launched the programme for the third time in January 2016 to provide a one-off subsidy to low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA (i.e. known colloquially as the “n have-nots”) to relieve their financial pressure. The subsidy is \$4,000 for one-person households, \$8,000 for two-person households, \$11,000 for three-person households, \$13,000 for four-person households and \$14,000 for five-or-more-person households. The total funding provision is around \$655.39 million, and around 72 000 households (about 175 000 persons) are expected to benefit from this programme. Applications for the programme have been accepted by phases starting from January 2016.

10. The CCF Task Force will continue to draw up new pilot programmes in collaboration with other Task Forces under the CoP to assist people-in-need. In the 2016 Policy Address, the Government invites the CCF to consider launching a number of new assistance programmes including:

- (1) implementing a pilot scheme to provide free cervical cancer vaccination for teenage girls from eligible low-income families;
- (2) implementing the pilot schemes recommended by the

Inter-departmental Working Group on Review of the Disability Allowance co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau:

- (a) providing living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities; and
 - (b) raising the maximum level of disregarded earnings for disabled CSSA recipients, and providing additional allowance for disabled recipients of Higher Disability Allowance who are engaged in paid jobs subject to the fulfilment of criteria such as working hour requirement and income limit, in order to further encourage persons with disabilities to secure employment;
- (3) implementing a programme to provide a one-off grant for kindergarten students from needy families in the 2016/17 school year to cover their school-related expenses before the implementation of the free quality kindergarten education policy in the 2017/18 school year; and
- (4) implementing a two-year pilot scheme, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Social Welfare Department, based on a medical-social collaboration model to provide dementia care services to the elderly persons with mild or mild to moderate dementia in the community through the District Elderly Community Centres with a view to shortening the waiting time of patients for diagnosis and specialist services of the HA and enhancing the dementia care services in the community.

Financial Position

11. A deposit of \$15 billion in total has been placed with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority⁵ (HKMA) to earn an investment return that is linked to the performance of the Hong Kong Exchange Fund. The remaining amount of the CCF funding has been made with banks for Hong Kong dollar time deposit, so as to earn interest income and meet the cash flow requirements for assistance programmes and other liquidity needs.

⁵ i.e. a placement of \$5 billion in June 2011 and a placement of \$10 billion in July 2013.

12. As at the end of December 2015, the balance of the CCF stood at around \$20.6 billion, consisting mainly of the placement of \$17.42 billion (including the investment return of about \$2.42 billion) at the HKMA and a bank deposit of around \$3.18 billion.

Consultation and Monitoring

13. As regards consultation, the CCF is planning to conduct public consultation sessions again early this year to seek opinions on the formation of assistance programmes. Furthermore, the CCF will continue to hold focus group meetings and consultation sessions on specific topics to collect opinions on the work of the CCF from the community and stakeholders, with a view to introducing more appropriate assistance programmes. The CCF always welcomes the public/stakeholders to provide ideas or suggestions through various channels, including the CCF website, letters, facsimiles, emails, telephone hotlines, etc. Ideas and suggestions received will be circulated to the CCF Task Force for reference.

14. The CoP and its CCF Task Force will continue to monitor the implementation of various assistance programmes. Government departments and other organisations entrusted to implement the programmes are required to submit progress and financial reports regularly to the CCF Task Force for review of the programmes. Before launching any brand-new pilot programmes with an estimated funding provision of over \$100 million, the Government will consult this Subcommittee or the relevant Panels of the LegCo. We will also continue to report regularly on the financial position of the CCF and the implementation progress of its programmes, together with evaluation reports of the programmes, to this Subcommittee every six months. Relevant information will be uploaded to the CCF website for easy reference by the public.

Advice Sought

15. Members are invited to note this paper and give views.

Home Affairs Bureau
January 2016

Assistance Programmes under the Community Care Fund

(A) Assistance programmes in progress/ to be rolled out soon

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(1) Subsidy for patients of Hospital Authority (HA) for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net but have been rapidly accumulating medical scientific evidence and with	August 2011 (current funding provision for five years)	474.27 ¹	● The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism and its sliding scale are adopted as the financial assessment criteria.	5 346 person-times ²	Around 404.96 ³	The programme initially covered six specified self-financed cancer drugs and was subsequently expanded to nine in August 2013, and further expanded to ten starting from the fifth year of operation (i.e. 1 August 2015).

¹ Including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and programme (B)(1) below.

² This refers to the number of applications approved as at 31 December 2015.

³ This refers to the subsidy for drug costs approved for beneficiaries as at 31 December 2015.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>relatively higher efficacy</p> <p>(To subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)</p>						<p>The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) in May 2012.</p> <p>All patients whose applications were approved in the first two years of operation (i.e. from August 2011 to July 2013) have completed treatment.</p>
(2) Subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below 60 who are non-CSSA (Comprehensive Social Security Assistance)	September 2011 (extension of implementation in November 2012, November 2013, November 2014 and November 2015)	236.37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aged below 60 and receiving Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme as at 31 July 2015; and 	6 963 person-times	Around 153.9	<p>The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty (CoP) in May 2013.</p> <p>The CoP approved in September 2015 to</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>recipients, requiring constant attendance and living in the community</p> <p>(According to the monthly household income of the applicants, the subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (\$2,000 per month); “three-quarters grant” (\$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (\$1,000 per month)</p>	<p>respectively)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Living in the community and having household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI). 			<p>extend again the implementation of the programme to provide a maximum of 12 months of subsidy.</p> <p>The programme was extended on 30 November 2015.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(3) Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme (When the programme was first launched: a subsidy of \$1,000 for one-person household; and \$2,000 for two-or-more-person household)	The programme was first launched in October 2011	33.671	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2011.	22 605 households	32.085	First launch of the programme was completed in 2012.
(When the programme was launched for the second to fourth time: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)	The programme was launched for the second time in September 2013	53.77	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2013.	17 769 households	Around 51.3	Second launch of the programme was completed in September 2014. The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in August 2014 which approved to launch the programme for the third time.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
	The programme was launched for the third time in September 2014	46.82	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2014.	14 992 households	Around 44.58	Third launch of the programme was completed in September 2015. The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in July 2015 which approved to launch the programme for the fourth time.
	The programme was launched for the fourth time in September 2015	51.50	● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2015.	14 535 households	Around 43.54	The programme was launched on 30 September 2015, and the subsidy has been disbursed from late November 2015 onwards.
(4) Relocation allowance for eligible residents of	December 2011	4.43	● Persons who have passed the family/household- based	141 households (205 persons)	Around 0.39	BD has inspected 98 target industrial buildings, and has so

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>sub-divided units in industrial buildings who have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement action</p> <p>(An allowance of \$2,500 for one-person household, \$5,500 for two-to-three-person household; and \$7,100 for four-or-more-person household)</p>			<p>means-test establishing eligibility for CSSA Scheme, student financial assistance schemes, HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism or Work Incentive Transport Subsidy; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● household income not exceeding 100% of the MMDHI for one-person households; and not exceeding 75% of the MMDHI for two-or-more-person households. 			<p>far identified cases of unauthorised sub-divided units for domestic use in 15 of them. BD has taken enforcement action against these cases and enforcement action has been completed in eight buildings. BD will continue to follow up the remaining cases.</p> <p>BD is currently evaluating the effectiveness of the programme and will report to the CCF Task Force in due course.</p>
(5) After-school care pilot scheme	September 2012 (a four-school	141.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary one to Secondary three students receiving 	40 568 person-times	Around 112.78	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(The subsidy cap for each project is \$500,000)	year pilot scheme)		<p>CSSA or full grant from the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (expanded to cover Primary one to Secondary three students receiving half grant in 2013/14 school year); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● participating schools or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have discretion to include needy students who do not meet the above criteria, but the number of these 			<p>2015 which approved to extend the implementation of the scheme for the last time to the 2015/16 school year.</p> <p>In the 2015/16 school year, a total of 89 schools and NGOs joined the scheme.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			students should not exceed 25% of the total number of student beneficiaries.			
(6) Elderly dental assistance programme (Based on the level of subsidy of CSSA dental grant, a maximum subsidy of \$13,950 for dental services for each beneficiary (including \$9,335 for dentures, \$4,555 for denture-related dental care and \$60 for registration and dental check-up), a referral fee	September 2012	817.11 ⁴ (including the provision required for the Expanded Programme in the first three years (i.e. from 2015 to 2018))	● Aged 60 or above, being users of the “Integrated Home Care Services” or “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” or “Home Help Service” subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and paying level 1 or level 2 fee charge of the said services, and not	2 633 persons	Around 21.92	The interim evaluation results were reported to the CoP in September 2013. The programme was expanded on 1 September 2015 to cover elders who are OALA recipients by phases (the Expanded Programme), starting with those aged 80 or above in the first

⁴ The original allocation of the programme was \$100 million. Starting from 1 January 2015, the unspent balance of the original allocation has been pooled together with the allocation for the Expanded Programme.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
of \$50 for each referral by NGOs, and an accompanying service fee of \$70 per hour based on the actual duration of accompanying service provided to applicants who are users of the home care / home help services under the programme (if applicable))			<p>receiving CSSA; or aged 80 or above and receiving Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) (applicable to the Expanded Programme rolled out on 1 September 2015); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have not benefited from this programme or the Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly under the Department of Health. 			<p>phase. As at end December 2015, applications from around 8 600 elders have been received under the Expanded Programme and around 8 400 of them have their first dental appointments arranged. Having regard to the progress of implementation and overall manpower situation in the dental profession, consideration will be given to expanding the target beneficiaries to other age groups progressively.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>(7) Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings</p> <p>(Eligible owners' corporations can be granted a subsidy with the total amount capped at \$20,000 for relevant expenditure items on an accountable basis)</p>	<p>October 2012 (The 3-year enhanced scheme was launched in October 2015)</p>	<p>67.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Residential or composite buildings aged 30 years or above; and ● average rateable value of the residential units does not exceed \$120,000 for urban area and \$92,000 for New Territories. 	<p>1 862 owners' corporations</p>	<p>Around 15.89</p>	<p>The evaluation results of the scheme were reported and the proposal for enhancement of the scheme for 3 years was submitted to the CoP in September 2015. The CoP noted the evaluation results and approved the implementation of the enhanced scheme.</p> <p>Among the 4 000 eligible owners' corporations, about 250 have indicated their intention to make an application.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(8) One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA (First launched programme : A subsidy of \$3,500 for one-person household; \$7,000 for two-person household; and \$10,000 for three-or-more-person household)	The programme was first launched in December 2013 (First-launched programme)	404.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons renting on a monthly basis private permanent housing, industrial buildings or commercial buildings; persons renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department (HAD)'s Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; homeless persons; or persons residing in vessels; ● household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; ● not receiving CSSA; and ● not owning any 	52 136 households (126 241 persons)	Around 384.8	The evaluation results of the First-launched programme were reported and the proposal on the Relunched programme was submitted to the CoP in August 2014. The CoP noted the evaluation results and approved to relaunch the programme.
(Relunched programme : A subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person household; \$8,000 for two-person household; \$11,000 for three-person household; and \$13,000 for	The programme was relaunched in January 2015 (Relunched programme)	610.95		61 653 households (149 150 persons)	Around 531.52	

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
four-or-more-person household)			property in Hong Kong.			eligibility and 23 600 new applications. The evaluation results of the Relunched programme were reported and detailed proposal on the Third-launched programme was submitted to the CoP in July 2015. The CoP noted the evaluation results and approved the relevant proposal.
(Third-launched programme : A subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person household; \$8,000 for two-person household; \$11,000 for three-person household;	The programme will be launched for the third time in January 2016 (Third-launched programme)	655.39		Estimated number of beneficiary households : 72 000 (around 175 000 persons)	Programme not yet implemented	

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
\$13,000 for four-person household; and \$14,000 for five-or-more-person household)						
(9) Incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the Integrated Employment Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) to secure employment	April 2014 (a three-year scheme)	226.62	● CSSA recipients of the IEAPS.	2 050 ⁵ persons	Around 9.27	The working group set up under the CCF Task Force will continue to follow up on the progress of implementing the scheme and the related evaluation study.
(10) Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the	June 2014 (a two-year pilot scheme)	126	Carer of the elderly person should meet the following	1 997 carers	Around 60.09	SWD has authorised 33 NGOs that operate District

⁵ This is the number of CSSA recipients randomly selected from IEAPS cases who agree to participate in the incentive scheme, which is also the target number of beneficiaries of the incentive scheme. As at 31 December 2015, 21 participants took up employment with income equal to/exceeding their CSSA recognized needs, subsequent to which they left the CSSA net with the accumulated incentive payment disbursed to them by SWD.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>elderly persons from low income families</p> <p>(A monthly subsidy of \$2,000 would be given to each eligible carer who takes care of one elderly person and a maximum of \$4,000 each for those who take care of more than one elderly person at the same time.)</p>			<p>eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the elderly person(s) being taken care of should be living in Hong Kong and assessed by Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services to have impairment at moderate or severe level, and has/have been on the Central Waiting List (CWL) for subsidised long term care services on or before 31 December 2013; ● the elderly person(s) being taken care of is/are 			<p>Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and/or Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) as approved service providers⁶ to assist in providing support services to the carers under the pilot scheme.</p> <p>The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.</p>

⁶ 125 DECCs and NECs in total across the territory.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>not using any residential care services during the period of application and throughout their participation in the pilot scheme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be capable of taking up the care-giving role, and is required to provide at least 80 hours of care-giving work per month (or not less than 120 hours per month for taking care of more than one elderly person, and the second elderly person concerned should have been on the CWL for subsidised long 			

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			term care services since the date of the roll-out of the pilot scheme); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be a Hong Kong resident not engaging in any form of employment relationship with the elderly person(s) of whom he/she is taking care of; ● not receiving CSSA or OALA; and ● monthly household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding MMDHI. 			
(11) Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate	2014/15 school year (a three-school	137	● Full-time undergraduates of public-funded or	5 995 person-times	Around 33.31	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
students	year programme)		self-financing locally-accredited programmes at degree level; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● passed the means test of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes (TSFS) or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP); ● resided in student hostels provided by their institutions; and ● confirmed by their institutions to have resided in student hostels in the semesters of the implementation period. 			Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(12) Increasing the academic expenses grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students	2014/15 school year (a three-school year programme)	151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full-time students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing programmes at sub-degree or degree level; and ● eligible students of FASP who have passed the means test of SFO. 	38 073 person-times	Around 52.78	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.
(13) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme	late July 2015 (a one-off special subsidy programme)	501.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary and secondary students receiving full grant under the STAS of SFO. 	124 268 persons	Around 447.36	Not applicable (Note: Since the programme aims to provide a one-off assistance to students from low-income families before the launch of the LIFA Scheme and the Labour and Welfare Bureau is working on the preparation work for the relevant

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(A one-off grant of \$3,600 for each eligible student from primary and secondary schools)						Scheme, the CoP agreed at its meeting in March 2015 that evaluation of the programme would not be required.)
(14) Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) (A subsidy of around \$0.54 million and around \$0.47 million is provided to each eligible secondary school and primary school respectively. Experts will be commissioned to conduct the evaluation and provide training to	2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)	218.84	Public sector ordinary secondary and primary schools meeting the following two criteria in the 2014/15 school year: ● the number of financially-needy students should account for at least 55% of the total number of students of the school (including students receiving CSSA, full grant or half grant under the student financial	About 9 000 persons	Around 31.66	A total of 59 primary schools and 65 secondary schools participated in the pilot programme. Experts are conducting evaluation for the programme as well as training courses, including school visits and initiation programmes, for SENCOs. The evaluation results will be

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
SENCOs.)			<p>assistance schemes); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● should have at least 50 students with special educational needs (SEN) who are those in need of Tier-2 or Tier-3 support under the 3-Tier Intervention Model. 			reported to the CCF Task Force in future.
<p>(15) Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with SEN and financial needs pursuing post-secondary programmes</p> <p>(An additional academic expenses grant up to \$8,000 for each eligible student per</p>	2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)	12.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are eligible for assistance under the TSFS or FASP and have passed the income test and asset test of the SFO; and ● must be identified with at least one type of SEN including learning difficulties, intellectual 	59 person-times	Around 0.44	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
year)			disability, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and speech and language impairment.			

(B) Assistance programmes regularised/ completed

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(1) Subsidy for needy patients of HA who marginally fall outside the SF safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs (To subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)	January 2012	4.278	● The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism was adopted by applying a more relaxed patient contribution ratio than that for the SF i.e. the patient's maximum contribution ratio is 20%.	280 person-times ⁷	4.278 ⁸	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012. The programme has been incorporated into the regular mechanism of the SF with effect from 1 September 2012.
(2) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the	September 2011 (a two-year programme)	0.502	● Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for CSSA	428 persons	0.452	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in July 2013. The programme has

⁷ The programme ceased operation on 31 August 2012, and this is the actual figure of the beneficiary statistics (the number of beneficiaries has been adjusted as a result of a subsidy recovery case in September 2014).

⁸ The programme ceased operation on 31 August 2012, and this is the actual expenditure of the programme (the amount of disbursement has been adjusted as a result of the recovery of around \$15,000 in September 2014).

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
Mainland for taking language-related international public examinations (Reimbursement of relevant examination fees to beneficiaries on an accountable basis)			Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or ● household income below 75% of the MMDHI.			been incorporated into HAD's regular support services with effect from 26 September 2013.
(3) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses (A subsidy of \$350 to \$700 is provided for participating in dedicated language courses of the Employees Retraining	March 2012	0.128	● Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for CSSA Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or ● household income below 75% of the MMDHI.	171 persons	0.061	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in July 2013. The programme has been incorporated into HAD's regular support service with effect from 26 September 2013.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
Board)						
(4) Subsidy for CSSA recipients who are owners of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above and not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme (A subsidy of \$2,000 per household)	September 2011 (a one-off subsidy programme)	1.73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA households meeting the relevant criteria as at 1 July 2011. 	825 households	1.65	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 April 2014.
(5) Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing (A subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person elderly household; \$8,000 for	July 2012 (A one-off subsidy programme with the application period closed on 31 January	11.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elderly households aged 65 or above; ● not receiving CSSA; ● household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; and ● not owning any 	2 092 households (2 594 persons)	Around 10.38	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2013.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
two-person elderly household; and \$12,000 for three-or-more-person elderly household)	2013)		property in Hong Kong.			
(6) Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed (A subsidy of \$3,000 for one-person household; \$6,000 for two-person household; and \$8,000 for three-or-more-person household)	October 2012 (a one-off subsidy programme with the application period closed on 8 April 2013)	155.43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons renting on a monthly basis rooms/cubicles, cocklofts or bedspaces in private permanent housing; persons renting bedspaces offered under HAD's Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; or homeless persons; ● household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; ● not receiving CSSA; 	25 759 households (58 999 persons)	Around 150.15	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2013.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● not owning any property in Hong Kong. 			
(7) Setting up the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) to subsidise primary and secondary school students from low-income families to participate in cross boundary learning activities and competitions (A subsidy of not more than \$3,000 for each benefited student to participate in cross-boundary learning activities and	July 2011 (a three-year programme)	191.49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students receiving full or half grant from the SFO; ● students receiving CSSA; or ● students meeting the “financially needy” criteria as determined by individual schools. 	74 115 persons	Around 185.87	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2014 which approved to suspend the programme after completion in 2013-14. Schools can apply for funding to conduct cross-boundary learning activities through the Quality Education Fund mechanism.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
competitions respectively)						
(8) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families (The subsidy level is determined by the actual fee charged by lunch suppliers and the subsidy is directly paid to lunch suppliers through the schools)	September 2011 (a three-school year programme)	434.59	● Whole-day primary school students receiving full grant from SFO and having lunch as arranged by their schools.	178 076 person-times ⁹	Around 430.20	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012 and it supported the regularisation of the programme. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 September 2014.
(9) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under	October 2013 (a one-school	263.16	● Primary and secondary students	312 342 persons (including	Around 263.05	The evaluation results were

⁹ Including 56 387, 60 386 and 61 303 beneficiaries in the school years of 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
the STAS (An additional grant of \$1,000 or \$500, depending on the conditions)	year programme)		receiving full and half grant under the STAS (an additional grant of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for each student); and ● primary and secondary students on CSSA (an additional grant of \$1,000 for each student)	235 279 students meeting the eligibility criteria for the STAS under SFO and 77 063 students on CSSA)	(including around \$186.05 million disbursed by SFO and around \$77 million disbursed by SWD)	reported to the CoP in June 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 September 2014.
(10) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level (Including the "Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme" and the	October 2013 (a one-school year programme)	50.6	● Target beneficiaries of the "Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme" are students enrolling in eligible courses below sub-degree level; ● target beneficiaries of the "Flat-rate Academic Expense	Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme: 2 779 persons Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant : 4 524 persons (including	Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme: Around 43.02 Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant: Around 7.58 (including	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in June 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
“Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant”)			Grant” are students enrolling in eligible courses with duration of one year or above; the grant amount will be on par with the enhanced flat-rate grant receivable by eligible primary and secondary students after enhancement (i.e. \$2,094 and \$1,047 for each full-grant and half-grant student respectively) in the 2013/14 school year.	2 819 Vocational Training Council (VTC) students and 1 705 Yi Jin Diploma students)	\$4.65 million for VTC students and \$2.93 million for Yi Jin Diploma students)	1 September 2014.
(11) Training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented	December 2011 (extension of implementation in November 2012, July	62.89	● On the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services on or before 31 January	2 840 persons	Around 59.9	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
pre-school rehabilitation services (A monthly subsidy of not more than \$2,615)	2013 and February 2014 respectively)		2014; and ● household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding MMDHI.			The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 October 2014.
(12) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment (According to the monthly household income and annual household disposable financial resources, the subsidy is disbursed in "full grant" (\$2,500 or \$2,000 per month); "three-quarters grant"	January 2013 (extension of implementation in September 2013 and May 2014 respectively)	7.94	● Renting respiratory support medical equipment without any relevant assistance, at the same time living in the community and receiving HDA under the SSA Scheme; and ● household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding MMDHI and the annual household disposable financial	260 persons	Around 7.57	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(\$1,875 or \$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (\$1,250 or \$1,000 per month))			resources not exceeding \$180,000.			
(13) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment (According to the monthly household income, the subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (a maximum of \$2,000 per month); “three-quarters grant” (a maximum of \$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (a maximum of	September 2013 (extension of implementation in May 2014)	2.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Using respiratory support medical equipment without receiving any relevant subsidy to purchase related medical consumables, at the same time living in the community and receiving HDA under the SSA Scheme; and ● household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding MMDHI and the annual household disposable financial resources not 	175 persons	Around 1.98	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government’s regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
\$1,000 per month))			exceeding \$180,000.			
(14) Subsidy for elders aged 65 or above from low-income families who are on the waiting list for IHCS (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning service and escorting services for medical consultations (A monthly subsidy of not more than \$560)	October 2011 (extension of implementation in December 2012)	10.78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aged 65 or above; living in the community; and have been on the waiting list for IHCS (Ordinary Cases) on or before 31 October 2012; and ● household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding MMDHI. 	1 341 persons	Around 10.26	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2013. The programme was completed on 31 December 2014.
(15) Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students (The extra travel subsidy is 50% of the	October 2013 (a two-school year programme)	3.64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Needy special school students from Primary one to Secondary six who are physically disabled, visually impaired, hearing 	3 463 persons	Around 3.36	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2015. The programme has been incorporated into the

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 31 December 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 31 December 2015)	Progress and evaluation
amount of travel subsidy an eligible student can receive on top of the Student Travel Subsidy (STS) disbursed by SFO)			impaired, mildly, moderately or severely intellectually disabled, and are receiving full grant or half grant of STS from SFO.			Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 September 2015.