

**For discussion on
12 May 2014**

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) (including the Guangdong (GD) Scheme hereafter), Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Disability Allowance (DA).

Proposal

2. The Financial Secretary proposed in his 2014-15 Budget, as a one-off measure, the provision of an extra payment to recipients of CSSA, OAA, OALA 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 persons / households –

Single elderly person : \$3,055
(aged 60 or above)

Single able-bodied adult : \$2,155

A 2-member CSSA family comprising : \$6,150
one elderly person and one 100%
disabled elderly person

A 3-member CSSA family comprising : \$5,965
one single parent and two school
children

A 4-member CSSA family comprising : \$6,860
two able-bodied adults (one of them
being a family carer) and two school
children

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

OAA	:	\$1,180
OALA	:	\$2,285
Normal DA	:	\$1,510
Higher DA	:	\$3,020

5. It is estimated that about 1.20 million people, including 430 000 CSSA recipients, 200 000 OAA recipients, 30 000 GD Scheme recipients, 420 000 OALA recipients and 130 000 DA recipients, will benefit from this proposal.

Financial implications

6. The estimated financial implication of the one-off payments is \$2.674 billion (including \$1.238 billion for CSSA and \$1.436 billion for allowances under the Social Security Allowance Scheme). The funding proposal will be submitted to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council for approval subject to passage of the Appropriation Bill 2014.

Implementation

7. Subject to FC's approval, the Social Welfare Department will make necessary adjustments to its computer system to implement the proposal as soon as possible.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
May 2014