

For information on
9 July 2018

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

**Community Housing Movement and
Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the
Community Housing Movement**

The Government notes that the Community Housing Movement (CHM) was launched by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in October 2017 through soliciting idle or under-utilised private housing resources held by the Urban Renewal Authority, private developers or ordinary landlords, with a view to providing short-term accommodation and support services to individuals or families in need of transitional housing. Meanwhile, the HKCSS has commissioned various non-governmental organisations to operate the CHM and provide support services to community housing users. According to the information from the HKCSS, under the CHM, about 500 rental units are made available to a total of about 1 000 beneficiary households. The rent is set at a level not exceeding the maximum rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or 25% of the household income (whichever is the lower) but higher than the rent of public rental housing. The tenancy period is subject to the availability of the flat as provided by the landlord and the programme of the service operator, but will not be less than two years in general. Beneficiaries under the HKCSS's CHM shall meet the following criteria: proven to be in need of transitional housing; currently living in inadequate housing conditions; and being low-income households with an urgent need for community support.

2. A three-year Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the Community Housing Movement was launched by the Community Care Fund in December 2017 to provide subsidy for households benefiting from the CHM to pay for removal expenses. Under the Pilot Scheme, each eligible household will receive a one-off relocation allowance from the Social Welfare Department according to the household size. The amount of allowance is \$3,076 for a one-person household, \$7,028 for a two-to-three-person household and \$9,263 for a four-or-more-person household. The Pilot Scheme is expected to benefit about 1 000 households.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
Social Welfare Department
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