

For discussion on  
11 March 2019

## **Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services**

### **Provision of Relocation Allowance for Grassroots Households**

#### **Purpose**

In accordance with the suggestions from some Members, the Panel on Welfare Services will discuss the captioned matter at its meeting on 11 March 2019. This paper briefs Members on the two relocation allowances related to the Social Welfare Department (SWD), namely the Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the Community Housing Movement and the domestic removal grant under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme.

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

2. The Community Housing Movement (CHM) was launched by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in October 2017 to provide short-term accommodation and support services for individuals or families in need of transitional housing. This is achieved through soliciting idled or under-utilised private housing resources held by the Urban Renewal Authority, private developers or ordinary landlords. According to information from the HKCSS, there are seven service operators participating in the CHM, providing about 204 rental units<sup>1</sup> to needy families / single persons.

3. A three-year Pilot Scheme on Relocation Allowance for Beneficiaries of the Community Housing Movement (the Pilot Scheme) was launched by the Community Care Fund (CCF) 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 SWD according to its 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

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the units can accommodate more than one tenant household.

four-or-more-person household. The amount of subsidy is the same as that provided by the 'Relocation Allowance for Residents of Illegal Domestic Premises in Industrial Buildings who Have to Move Out as a result of the Buildings Department's Enforcement Action' launched by the CCF in December 2017 and it will be reviewed upon evaluation of the Pilot Scheme. The three-year Pilot Scheme is expected to benefit about 1 000 households. As at end of January 2019, a total of 210 applications were received under the Pilot Scheme, with 180 applications vetted to be eligible and the amount of allowance paid was about \$1.25 million in total. An evaluation on the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme will be conducted by the SWD with a view to considering its way forward.

### **Domestic Removal Grant under the CSSA Scheme**

4. The CSSA Scheme provides a safety net to meet the basic needs of those who are unable to support themselves financially because of old age, illnesses, disabilities, single parenthood, unemployment, low income, etc. Apart from standard rates, the CSSA Scheme also provides supplements and special grants to meet the special needs of eligible recipients. Regarding the domestic removal grant, the amount ranges from about \$2,000 to \$20,000 depending on the number of eligible elderly persons, disabled persons or persons medically certified to be in ill-health in the CSSA households and the type of accommodations (i.e. private housing or public rental housing). Meanwhile, the Government will complete the review on the CSSA 'disregarded earnings' arrangement and the relevant supplements/special grants by the end of this year to consider how the CSSA Scheme could be further improved.

### **Conclusion**

5. Members are invited to note this paper.

Labour and Welfare Bureau  
Social Welfare Department  
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