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政府總部



LABOUR AND WELFARE BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Central Government Offices  
Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 Our Ref.: LWB T4/18/48

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

30 October 2019

Ms Wendy JAN  
Clerk to the Panel on Welfare Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Jan,

### **Extension of Old Age Living Allowance to the Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services on 30 October 2018, the Government briefed Members on welfare-related initiatives announced in the 2018 Policy Address. The above included the extension of the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) to the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and the Fujian (FJ) Scheme to provide OALA (comprising Normal OALA currently at \$2,675 per month and Higher OALA currently at \$3,585 per month) to eligible Hong Kong (HK) elderly persons residing in the two Provinces. I write to inform Members of the latest developments of this initiative.

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has largely completed relevant preparatory work and will launch the initiative on 1 January 2020. To allow sufficient time for elderly persons to submit applications, SWD will start receiving applications for OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme from 1 November 2019.

Applicants of both Old Age Allowance (OAA) and OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme are required to have resided in HK continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application (the one-year continuous residence in HK requirement). Similar to the launching of OAA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme, the Government will put in place a special one-off arrangement in the first year of implementation of 'portable' OALA (i.e. from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020) to exempt applicants who have already resided in GD or FJ from the one-year continuous residence in HK requirement. Nevertheless, these applicants must have resided in the relevant Province continuously for at least one year (with a grace period of 56 days during the one-year period) immediately before the date of application and satisfied all other eligibility criteria. The special one-off arrangement will also be applicable to OAA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme during the same one-year period (i.e. from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020).

SWD will issue a press release on 31 October 2019 to announce the relevant eligibility criteria and detailed arrangements. The press release to be issued is enclosed herewith for Members' reference. Members are invited to note this letter.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Carren MAK)  
for Secretary for Labour and Welfare

With Encl.

cc:

Director of Social Welfare (Attn.: Ms Vivian HAU)

## Annex

### Implementation of Old Age Living Allowance under Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme and one-year special one-off arrangement

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) announced today (October 31) that the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) (including Normal OALA and Higher OALA) will be implemented under the Guangdong (GD) Scheme and Fujian (FJ) Scheme with effect from January 1, 2020. Applications will be accepted starting from tomorrow (November 1) to allow sufficient time for elderly persons to submit applications.

An SWD spokesman said, “The OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme provides a normal rate monthly allowance currently at \$2,675 or higher rate monthly allowance currently at \$3,585 to eligible Hong Kong elderly persons aged 65 or above who choose to reside in GD or FJ without the need to return to Hong Kong each year (see Annex). The amount of allowance will be adjusted annually in accordance with the established mechanism.”

The existing means-tested Old Age Allowance (OAA) applicable for applicants aged 65 to 69 under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme will be replaced by OALA from January 1, 2020. The provision of the non-means tested OAA for applicants aged 70 or above under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme will continue.

The spokesman added, “A special one-off arrangement will be put in place in the first year of implementing the OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme (i.e. from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020). This allows elderly persons who have already resided in GD or FJ and satisfied all other eligibility criteria, but fail to meet the requirement of having resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application, to benefit from the OALA under the GD Scheme/FJ Scheme without having to return to and stay in Hong Kong for one year. However, these applicants must have resided in GD (only applicable to GD Scheme)/FJ (only applicable to FJ Scheme) for at least one year immediately before the date of application (with a grace period of 56 days during the one-year period), and they have to provide documentary proof of their residential addresses in the province concerned (such as rental receipts, electricity bills, etc).”

“It is worth noting that the special one-off arrangement will also be applicable to the OAA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme during the same one-year period. Hong Kong elderly persons aged 70 or above residing in GD or FJ, if not applying for OALA, may apply for OAA through the special arrangement.”

Elderly persons who intend to apply for OALA under the GD Scheme/FJ Scheme may return the completed application form with copies of supporting documents and two recent photos by post to the Social Security Field Unit (Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme) at Unit 2110-2111, 21/F, Landmark North, 39 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui, New Territories, Hong Kong. Upon receipt of an application, the SWD will make an appointment with the applicant for an interview and to complete the application procedures at the Field Unit in person. Eligible elderly persons will receive Normal OALA/Higher OALA from the date of

implementation of OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme, or the date of receipt of application, or the date of eligibility, whichever is the latest. Elderly persons who wish to apply for OAA under the GD Scheme/FJ Scheme through the special one-off arrangement may make their applications to the SWD starting from tomorrow. The SWD will process the relevant applications from the implementation date of the special one-off arrangement (i.e. January 1, 2020).

The SWD has appointed the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch as the implementation agent for the OALA under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme. The agent will assist applicants who are unable to travel to Hong Kong owing to health reasons in completing application procedures, conducting interviews and case reviews, and handling enquiries, etc.

The application form and application guidance notes can be downloaded from SWD's GD Scheme website ([www.swd.gov.hk/gds](http://www.swd.gov.hk/gds)) and FJ Scheme website ([www.swd.gov.hk/fjs](http://www.swd.gov.hk/fjs)), and are available at all social security field units in Hong Kong as well as designated venues in GD and FJ (including the Government's Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong and its Shenzhen Liaison Unit and Fujian Liaison Unit). Applicants may also obtain the application form and guidance notes from the Social Security Field Unit (Guangdong Scheme and Fujian Scheme) by phone or by post.

For enquiries, please visit the above websites or call the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme enquiry line at 3105 3266.

Ends/Thursday, October 31, 2019  
Issued at HKT xx:xx

**Eligibility criteria for Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) under the Guangdong (GD) Scheme/Fujian (FJ) Scheme**

To be eligible for OALA under the GD Scheme/FJ Scheme, an applicant must:

- (1) be aged 65 or above;
- (2) have been a Hong Kong (HK) resident for at least seven years;
- (3) have resided in HK continuously for at least one year immediately before the date of application (absence from HK up to a maximum of 56 days during the one-year period is treated as residence in HK);
- (4) continue to reside in GD (only applicable to GD Scheme)/FJ (only applicable to FJ Scheme) during receipt of allowance. Recipient will be required to reside in GD (only applicable to GD Scheme)/FJ (only applicable to FJ Scheme) for at least 60 days within a payment year for obtaining a full-year payment of allowance;
- (5) surrender his/her public rental housing (PRH) unit or delete his/her name from the tenancy before leaving HK if he/she is an authorised PRH tenant;
- (6) not be in receipt of any other allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme or assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme;
- (7) not be under detention in legal custody or imprisonment; and
- (8) meet the income and asset requirements. The current income and asset limits for Normal OALA and Higher OALA are set out below:

		Single person (HK\$)	Married couples (HK\$)
Normal OALA <sup>Note</sup>	Total income per month	\$7,970	\$13,050
	Total asset value	\$343,000	\$520,000
Higher OALA	Total income per month	\$7,970	\$13,050
	Total asset value	\$150,000	\$227,000

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Note: The income and asset limits of Normal OALA are the same as those for the existing Old Age Allowance applicable for applicants aged 65 to 69 under the GD Scheme and FJ Scheme.