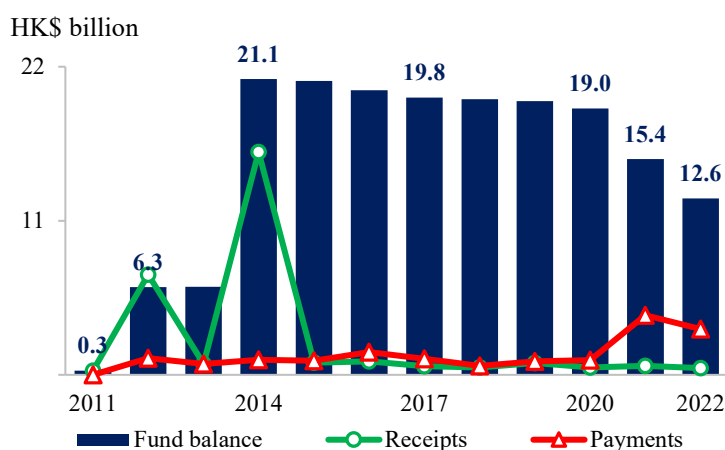




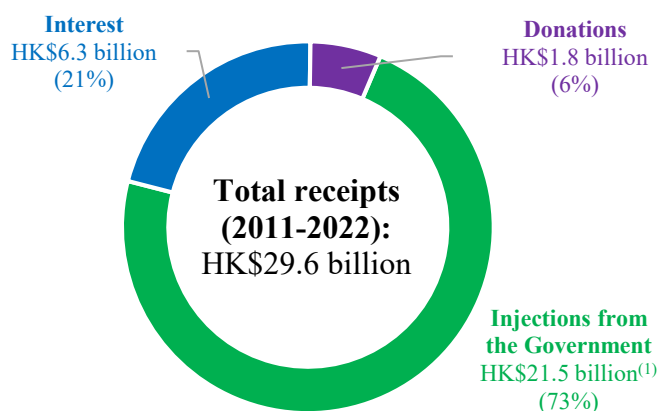
Community Care Fund

Figure 1 – Annual balance of CCF⁽¹⁾



Note: (1) Fiscal year ending in March.

Figure 2 – Total receipts of CCF by source



Note: (1) Injections were made in May 2011, July 2011 and June 2013.

Figure 3 – 20 ongoing assistance programmes under CCF by policy area

Policy area	Assistance programmes (No.)	Funding disbursed (HK\$ million)	Beneficiaries (person-times)
(a) Welfare	8 (40%)	1,912 (32%)	49 286 (30%)
(b) Housing	8 (40%)	271 (5%)	2 312 (1%)
(c) Healthcare	4 (20%)	3,717 (63%)	113 788 (69%)
Total	20 (100%)	5,900 (100%)	165 386 (100%)

Highlights

- In January 2011, the Government set up the Community Care Fund (“CCF”) under the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1044). CCF is tasked with (a) providing assistance to people in economic hardships, especially those outside the social safety net or with special needs; and (b) piloting assistance programmes (“APs”) before regularizing. As a trust fund, CCF first recorded a peak of annual balance at HK\$21.1 billion in March 2014 after three rounds of government injections totaling HK\$21.5 billion, but then declined by 40% to HK\$12.6 billion in March 2022 upon progressive disbursements under various APs (Figure 1). Most of the remaining balance was kept in the forms of time deposits at bank (with a share of 51.8%) and placements with the Exchange Fund (48.1%), with the rest as cash (0.1%).
- Analyzed by funding source, the aforementioned government injections are the largest contributor, taking up 73% of the overall receipts of CCF from 2011 to 2022 (Figure 2). This is followed by the interest income of HK\$6.3 billion from both time deposits at bank and placements with Exchange Fund (21% of receipts), and the donations of HK\$1.8 billion (6% of receipts) which are tax deductible to incentivize private sector donors.
- By March 2022, the Government had launched altogether 59 APs through CCF, disbursing HK\$15.4 billion to over 2.76 million person-times (e.g. the elderly, patients and new arrivals in financial difficulty). More specifically, 39 APs amounting to HK\$9.5 billion (taking up 62% of disbursement) have already completed the pilot phase, of which 20 have been converted into regular schemes for full implementation. For the remaining 20 APs still on trial, they fall into three policy areas, namely (a) welfare (e.g. subsidy for disabled persons), (b) housing (e.g. modular social housing) and (c) healthcare (e.g. elderly dental care). The total disbursement under these ongoing schemes is HK\$5.9 billion (38% of disbursement), with the number of beneficiaries standing at 165 000 person-times (Figure 3).

Community Care Fund (cont'd)

Figure 4 – One-off living subsidy for “n have-nots” households (beneficiaries and disbursement)

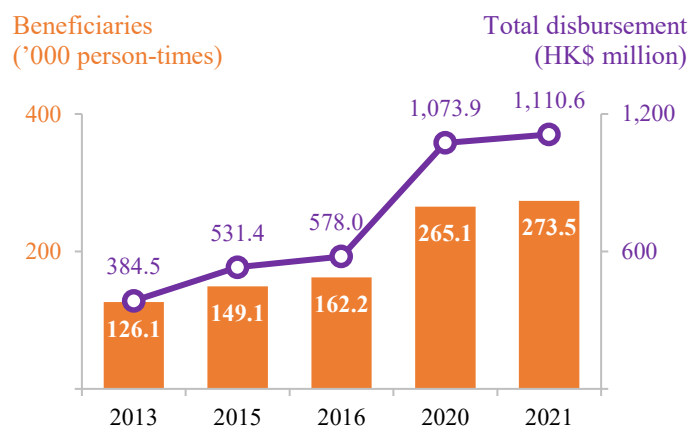


Figure 5 – Subsidy for needy students to purchase mobile computer devices

	School year ending in August		
	2019	2020	2021 ⁽¹⁾
Participating schools	188	281	About 870
No. of student beneficiaries	13 856	20 176	142 240
Maximum entitlement per student (full grant)	HK\$4,500	HK\$4,610	HK\$4,740
Average subsidy granted (% to cap)	HK\$3,984 (89%)	HK\$4,116 (89%)	HK\$4,317 (91%)
Total disbursement (HK\$ million)	49.2	72.8	About 568

Note: (1) Figures calculated based on both actual data and estimates reported by schools as at end-April 2021.

Figure 6 – Subsidy to owners' corporations of old buildings

	Phase I 2012-2015	Phase II 2015-2018	Phase III ⁽¹⁾ 2018-2021
No. of eligible OCs	4 250	4 500	5 000
No. of beneficiary OCs ⁽²⁾ (% in eligible OCs)	2 138 (50%)	1 980 (44%)	1 498 (30%)
Maximum entitlement per OC	HK\$20,000	HK\$20,000	HK\$24,000
Average subsidy granted (% to cap)	HK\$8,620 (43%)	HK\$10,260 (51%)	HK\$10,420 (43%)
Total disbursement (HK\$ million)	18.4	20.3	15.6

Notes: (1) Data as at end-August 2021.

(2) Excluding repeated beneficiaries, the cumulative number of beneficiary OCs of this AP (Phases I-III) was 3 240.

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Highlights

- Turning to the effectiveness of CCF, the ensuing paragraphs discuss three completed APs with the largest disbursement in three respective policy areas, namely (a) welfare; (b) education; and (c) home affairs.
- First on *welfare*, CCF has offered five rounds of one-off living subsidy to those low-income grassroots families neither living in public housing nor receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (known as “n have-nots”) since 2013, averaging at 1.7-2.2 months of median rents per beneficiary family. Compared to the inaugural round, the latest round of disbursement increased by 189% to HK\$1.1 billion in 2021, with a concurrent doubling of beneficiaries to 273 500 person-times (**Figure 4**). While most recipients indicated that this AP could relieve their financial pressure, the Housing Department launched another three-year pilot scheme (“Cash Allowance Trial Scheme”) in June 2021 to provide a monthly subsidy of HK\$1,300-HK\$3,900 to “n have-nots” households that had been on the waiting list of public rental housing for over three years. (For the rest of “n have-nots”, some could be relieved by the loosened working hour requirement for the Working Family Allowance lasting for one year.)
- On *education*, CCF began to subsidize needy students to purchase mobile computer devices in the school year of 2018-2019. Owing to increased demand for e-learning at home during the epidemic, the number of participating schools and beneficiaries surged by three-fold and nine-fold respectively from 2018-2019, to 870 schools and 142 200 students in 2020-2021 (**Figure 5**). The average subsidy per case also increased by 8.4% to HK\$4,317. Upon its completion, the Government introduced a similar programme but placed it under the Quality Education Fund with a total budget of HK\$1.5 billion for three years starting from 2021-2022.
- On *home affairs*, CCF subsidized owners' corporations (“OCs”) of old buildings for specified expenses on building management (e.g. registration/filing fees at the Land Registry and expenses for examination of lifts). Three phases were rolled out in this AP, with relaxed eligibility criteria and widened subsidy coverage in the latter phases. Yet the share of eligible OCs taking part in this AP fell progressively from 50% to 30%, and the average subsidy per OC took up just 43%-51% of the maximum entitlements (**Figure 6**). In view of the lukewarm response across the three phases, the Government terminated this AP in September 2021.

Data sources: Latest figures from Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Community Care Fund Secretariat, Education Bureau and Home Affairs Department.