

For information
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LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Provision of additional social welfare assistance to recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and the Social Security Allowance Schemes

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the proposed one-off measure in 2007-08 to provide the recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) with additional social welfare assistance.

Proposed one-off measure

2. The Financial Secretary proposed in his 2007-08 Budget Speech on 28 February to provide one additional month of standard rate CSSA payment for CSSA recipients and one additional month of allowance for SSA recipients.

Justifications

3. We have allocated enormous resources in setting up a non-contributory social security system, including CSSA and SSA, to provide financial assistance for those in need. In view of the improvement of the fiscal condition of the Government this year, the proposed provision of the one-off additional assistance would help the CSSA and SSA recipients to share the fruits of economic prosperity.

Rates of additional payment

CSSA recipients

4. CSSA recipients will be given an additional payment of one-month of the standard rate. Under the CSSA scheme, different standard rates are applicable to different categories of recipients (such as elderly persons, children or able-bodied adults). The amount of additional assistance on a one-off basis as proposed will be equivalent to the individual recipient’s monthly standard rate. For example :

Single person able-bodied elderly	:	\$2,305
Single person able-bodied child	:	\$1,955
Single person able-bodied adult	:	\$1,630
A 3-member CSSA family comprising one single parent (a family-carer) and two able-bodied school children	:	\$4,510

A 4-member CSSA family : \$5,170
comprising two able-bodied adults
(the wife is a family-carer) and two
able-bodied school children

SSA recipients

5. SSA recipients will be given an one-off payment of one-month DA or OAA. The amounts are as follows:

Normal Old Age Allowance (NOAA) : \$625
Higher Old Age Allowance (HOAA) : \$705
Normal Disability allowance (NDA) : \$1,140
Higher Disability allowance (HDA) : \$2,280

Financial implications

6. The estimated financial implications for implementing this one-off payment is \$1.5 billion (including \$1 billion for CSSA and \$0.5 billion for SSA). It is estimated that more than one million recipients (including 520 000 CSSA recipients and 580 000 SSA recipients) will benefit from the proposal. We will prepare a submission to the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council to seek approval of the necessary financial commitment in April.

Implementation

7. As the CSSA and SSA Schemes are administrative schemes, no

legislative amendment is necessary. Subject to FC's approval, we will implement the proposed measure as soon as possible.

8. Members are invited to note the contents of the paper.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Social Welfare Department

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