

For information
on 21 July 2015

Legislative Council Subcommittee on Poverty

Community Care Fund

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the work progress of the Community Care Fund (CCF) and seeks Members' views in this regard.

Background

2. The CCF is a trust fund established in early 2011 under the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporation Ordinance (Cap. 1044) with the Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated as its trustee. Its main objective is to provide assistance to people facing economic difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but have special circumstances that are not covered. In addition, the CCF may implement measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that can be considered for incorporation into the Government's regular assistance and service programmes.

3. The CCF has since 2013 been integrated into the work of the reinstated Commission on Poverty (CoP)¹. The CCF Task Force, set up under the CoP as chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, is responsible for advising the CoP on the CCF's various arrangements (including investment, finance and administrative operations), as well as the formulation of assistance programmes, the co-ordination and overseeing of the implementation of assistance programmes, and the evaluation of their effectiveness. The CCF Task Force will also liaise closely with other CoP task forces and provide mutual support, so as to draw up programmes to provide assistance to the underprivileged.

4. The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved the injection of \$5 billion into the CCF in May 2011, and approved in July the same

¹ The CoP was re-organised in December 2014. To deal with various issues more effectively, four task forces were set up under the second-term CoP to conduct in-depth study and deliberate on specific areas, namely the Community Care Fund Task Force, the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force, the Special Needs Groups Task Force and the Youth Education, Employment and Training Task Force.

year an additional injection of \$1.5 billion for implementing the programme to provide an allowance for new arrivals². The FC also approved in June 2013 an additional injection of \$15 billion into the CCF to strengthen the poverty alleviation efforts.

Work Progress

Assistance Programmes

5. Since its establishment, the CCF has launched 30 assistance programmes under the medical, education, housing, welfare and home affairs areas for target beneficiary groups including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, patients, new arrivals, ethnic minorities, etc. People outside the existing safety net or the coverage of the Government's short-term relief measures have been identified and provided with assistance. The total commitment exceeded \$5.459 billion. As at the end of June this year, more than 970 000 person-times³ have benefited under these programmes, and the CCF has disbursed around \$2.762 billion to various implementing agencies⁴. The latest progress of various programmes is set out at the Annex.

6. The CCF also implemented measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those initiatives that have been proven effective for incorporation into the regular assistance programme. Since its establishment in 2011, the ten pilot programmes below have been incorporated into the regular assistance programme:

- (1) The programme providing subsidy for needy patients of Hospital Authority who marginally fall outside the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs;
- (2) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language examinations;

² The FC approved on 18 July 2011 an additional injection of \$1.5 billion into the CCF to implement the programme. The FC also agreed that the CCF should handle the injection separately from the existing funds of the CCF. Unused funds (including interest), if any, will be returned to the Government after the completion of the programme. As at now, an amount of \$301 million has been returned to the Government.

³ Nearly 200 000 people have benefited from the programme to provide an allowance to new arrivals.

⁴ Including the disbursements to beneficiaries and the staffing and administrative expenses of the implementing agencies.

- (3) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses;
- (4) Subsidy for Tenants Purchase Scheme flat owners on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA);
- (5) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from low-income families;
- (6) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme;
- (7) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level;
- (8) Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list of subvented pre-school rehabilitation services;
- (9) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting respiratory support medical equipment; and
- (10) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment.

In addition, the Government will regularise the programme of Providing extra travel subsidy for needy special school students in the 2015/16 school year. These regularised programmes will involve an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$720 million.

7. After briefing this Subcommittee on the work progress of the CCF in December last year, the CCF has initiated/relaunched the following four assistance programmes:

- (1) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) before the launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA): In the 2015/16 school year, this programme will provide primary and secondary students on full grant under the STAS with a one-off special subsidy so that timely assistance can be made available to support students from low-income families before the launch of LIFA Scheme. Each student will be given a special subsidy of \$3,600. The total funding provision for the programme will be about \$500 million, and more than

130 000 primary and secondary students are expected to benefit from the programme. Disbursement of the subsidy will begin in late July/early August this year.

- (2) Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators: In the 2015/16 school year, this programme will provide a cash subsidy to ordinary schools admitting a relatively large number or percentage of students with special educational needs (SEN) and financial needs to designate a teacher for co-ordinating the support measures relating to SEN and enhance the effectiveness of integrated education implemented in schools. The total funding provision for the three-year programme will amount to around \$200 million, and some 9 000 students with SEN from around 120 schools are expected to benefit from the programme.
- (3) Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with special educational needs pursuing post-secondary programmes: In the 2015/16 school year, this programme will provide students with SEN pursuing post-secondary programmes with an additional academic expenses grant in order to enhance the support to students with SEN and financial needs. Each beneficiary student will be disbursed with a maximum of \$8,000 additional academic expenses grant per year. The total funding provision for the three-year programme will amount to around \$12 million, and about 540 students with SEN are expected to benefit from the programme each year.
- (4) Re-launching the one-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA programme: This programme provides a one-off subsidy to persons not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA (i.e. known colloquially as the “n have-nots”) to relieve their financial pressure. The subsidy is \$4,000 for one-person households, \$8,000 for two-person households, \$11,000 for three-person households and \$13,000 for four-or-more-person households. The total funding provision is around \$610.95 million, and around 68 100 households (about 164 880 persons) are expected to benefit from this programme. Applications for this programme are accepted by phases starting from January 2015. The CoP agreed in principle to launch the programme for the third time (the “Third-launch programme”) in January next year. The CCF Task Force has just discussed the detailed arrangements for the Third-launch programme at its meeting in this July and will submit proposal to the CoP for consideration shortly.

8. Through continuous review of the existing programmes, the CCF can also timely identify which programmes need to be revised or extended, so that the assistance can be provided in an effective manner. In this regards, the CoP approved the funding provision and the new drug list for the fifth year (i.e. August 2015 to July 2016) of the First Phase Medical Assistance Programme. This includes the introduction of a specified self-financed cancer drug (Pazopanib) for treatment of kidney cancer under the First Phase Programme. The CoP also approved to extend the After-school care pilot scheme for the last time to the 2015/16 school year. Moreover, to benefit more elders who have financial difficulties and do not receive CSSA, the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme (the “Programme”) will soon be expanded to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance recipients by phases, starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase (involving some 130 000 elders). The CCF will consider expanding the Programme to other age groups progressively having regard to its progress of implementation and the overall situation.

Financial Position

9. A deposit of \$15 billion in total has been placed with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority⁵ (HKMA) to earn an investment return that is linked to the performance of the Hong Kong Exchange Fund. The remaining amount of the CCF funding has been made with banks for Hong Kong dollar time deposit, so as to earn interest income and meet the cash flow requirements for assistance programmes and other liquidity needs.

10. As at the end of June this year, the balance of the CCF stood at around \$20.705 billion, mainly including the placement of \$16.512 billion (including the investment return of about \$1.512 billion) at the HKMA, as well as a bank deposit of around \$4.191 billion.

Consultation and Monitoring

11. As regards consultation, apart from the two public consultation sessions in February this year, focus group meetings on specific issues and public consultation sessions will continue to be held to gauge the views of the community and stakeholders on the formulation of new assistance programmes and the work of the CCF, with a view to introducing more appropriate assistance programmes. The CCF always welcomes the public/stakeholders to provide any ideas or suggestions through various channels, including the CCF website, letters, facsimiles, emails, telephone hotlines, etc. Ideas and suggestions received will be circulated to the CCF Task Force for reference.

⁵ i.e. a placement of \$5 billion in June 2011 and a placement of \$10 billion in July 2013.

12. The CoP and its CCF Task Force under the CoP will continue to monitor the implementation of various assistance programmes. Government departments and other organisations entrusted to implement the programmes are required to submit progress and financial reports regularly to the CCF Task Force for review of the programme. Prior to launching brand-new programmes which are pilot in nature and funding provision of which is expected to exceed \$100 million, the Government will consult this Subcommittee or the relevant Panels of the LegCo. We will continue to report regularly to this Subcommittee the financial position of the CCF and the implementation progress of its programmes every six months. Evaluation reports of the programmes will also be provided. Moreover, the relevant information will be uploaded to the CCF website for easy reference by the public.

Advice Sought

13. Members are invited to note this paper and give views.

Home Affairs Bureau
July 2015

Assistance Programmes under the Community Care Fund (CCF)

(A) Assistance programmes in progress/ to be rolled out soon

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(1) Subsidy for patients of Hospital Authority (HA) for specified self-financed cancer drugs which have not yet been brought into the Samaritan Fund (SF) safety net but have been rapidly accumulating medical scientific evidence and with relatively higher	August 2011 (current funding provision for five years)	541.59 ¹	● The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism and its sliding scale are adopted as the financial assessment criteria.	4 458 person-times ²	Around 335.02 ³	The programme initially covered six specified self-financed cancer drugs and was subsequently expanded to nine in August 2013, and will be expanded to ten starting from the fifth year of operation (i.e. 1 August 2015). The evaluation

¹ Including the administrative and audit expenses of this programme and programme (B)(1) below.

² This refers to the number of applications approved as at 30 June 2015.

³ This refers to the subsidy for drug costs approved for beneficiaries as at 30 June 2015.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>efficacy</p> <p>(To subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)</p>						<p>results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) in May 2012.</p> <p>All patients whose applications were approved in the first two years of operation (i.e. from August 2011 to July 2013) have completed treatment.</p>
<p>(2) Subsidy for the severely disabled persons aged below 60 who are non-CSSA (Comprehensive Social Security Assistance) recipients, requiring constant attendance</p>	<p>September 2011 (extension of implementation in November 2012, November 2013 and November 2014 respectively)</p>	<p>179.35</p>	<p>● Aged below 60, living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme as at 31 July 2014; and</p>	<p>6 959 person-times</p>	<p>Around 132.72</p>	<p>The evaluation results were reported to the Commission on Poverty (CoP) in May 2013.</p> <p>The CoP approved in November 2014 to extend again the implementation of</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>and living in the community</p> <p>(According to the monthly household income of the applicants, the subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (\$2,000 per month); “three-quarters grant” (\$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (\$1,000 per month)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI). 			the programme to provide a maximum of 12 months of subsidy.
<p>(3) Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing and paying a rent exceeding the maximum rent allowance (MRA) under the CSSA Scheme</p> <p>(When the programme was first launched: a</p>	The programme was first launched in October 2011	33.671	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2011. 	22 605 households	32.085	First launch of the programme was completed in 2012.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>subsidy of \$1,000 for one-person household; and \$2,000 for two-or-more-person household)</p> <p>(When the programme was launched for the second time: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)</p>	The programme was launched for the second time in September 2013	53.78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2013. 	17 771 households	Around 51.3	<p>Second launch of the programme was completed in September 2014.</p> <p>The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in August 2014 which approved to re-launch the programme.</p>
<p>(When the programme was launched for the third time: a subsidy of \$2,000 for one-person household; and \$4,000 for two-or-more-person household)</p>	The programme was launched for the third time in September 2014	49.27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA households living in rented private housing paying actual rents which exceed the MRA under the CSSA Scheme as at 1 July 2014. 	14 991 households	Around 44.58	<p>The subsidy has been disbursed from late November 2014 onwards with the majority of eligible households already granted with the subsidy.</p> <p>At its meeting in July 2015, the CCF Task Force considered the</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
						evaluations of the third-launch programme and supported the proposal of launching the programme for the fourth time. The relevant paper will be submitted to the CoP for consideration.
(4) Relocation allowance for eligible residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings who have to move out as a result of the Buildings Department (BD)'s enforcement action (An allowance of \$2,500 for one-person household, \$5,500 for	December 2011	4.43	● Persons who have passed the family/ household- based means-test establishing eligibility for CSSA Scheme, student financial assistance schemes, HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism or Work Incentive Transport Subsidy; or	141 households (205 persons)	Around 0.39	BD has inspected 98 target industrial buildings, and has so far identified cases of unauthorised sub-divided units for domestic use in 13 of them. BD has taken enforcement action against these cases and enforcement action has been completed in six buildings. BD will

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
two-to-three-person household; and \$7,100 for four-or-more-person household)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● household income not exceeding 100% of the MMDHI for one-person households; and not exceeding 75% of the MMDHI for two-or-more-person households. 			<p>continue to follow up the remaining cases.</p> <p>Evaluation is being planned and the progress will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.</p>
(5) After-school care pilot scheme (The subsidy cap for each project is \$500,000)	September 2012 (a four-school year programme)	149.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary one to Secondary three students receiving CSSA or full grant from the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency (expanded to cover Primary one to Secondary three students receiving half grant in 	30 207 person-times	Around 96.61	<p>The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2015 which approved to extend the implementation of the scheme for the last time to the 2015/16 school year.</p> <p>At its meeting in July 2015, the CCF Task Force noted the assessment results. In the 2015/16 school year, a total 92</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			2013/14 school year); and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● participating schools or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have discretion to include needy students who do not meet the above criteria, but the number of these students should not exceed 25% of the total number of student beneficiaries. 			schools and NGOs have joined the programme.
(6) Elderly dental assistance programme	September 2012	817.11 ⁴ (including the provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aged 60 or above; ● not receiving CSSA; and ● users of the 	1 312 persons	Around 9.58	The interim evaluation results were reported to the CoP in September

⁴ The original allocation of the programme was \$100 million. Starting from 1 January 2015, the unspent balance of the original allocation has been pooled together with the allocation for the expanded programme.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>(Based on the level of subsidy of CSSA dental grant, a maximum subsidy of \$13,950 for dental services for each beneficiary (including \$9,335 for dentures, \$4,555 for denture-related dental care and \$60 for registration and dental check-up), a referral fee of \$50 for each referral by NGOs, and an accompanying service fee of \$70 per hour based on the actual duration of accompanying service provided to applicants who are users of the home care / home help services under the programme (if applicable))</p>		<p>required for the expanded programme in the first three years (i.e. from 2015 to 2018))</p>	<p>Integrated “Home Care Services” (IHCS) or “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” or “Home Help Service” subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and are paying level 1 or level 2 fee charge of the above services when applying for the assistance of this programme.</p>			<p>2013.</p> <p>1 553 eligible elders have been referred to receive the dental services under the programme.</p> <p>At its meeting on 12 December 2014, the CoP agreed to expand the programme progressively to cover elders who are Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) recipients by phases (the Expanded programme), starting with those aged 80 or above in the first phase, and to consider expanding it to other age groups progressively having regard to the progress</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
						of implementation and the overall situation. Based on the current progress, the Expanded programme will soon be rolled out.
(7) Subsidy for owners' corporations of old buildings (Eligible owners' corporations can be granted a subsidy with the total amount capped at \$20,000 for relevant expenditure items on an accountable basis)	October 2012 (a three-year programme)	67.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Residential or composite buildings aged 30 years or above; and ● average rateable value of the residential units does not exceed \$120,000 for urban area and \$92,000 for New Territories. 	1 518 owners' corporations	Around 10.28	<p>Among the 4 500 eligible owners' corporations, about 2 924 have indicated their intention to make an application.</p> <p>The interim evaluation results were reported to the CoP in December 2014.</p> <p>The final results of evaluation will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>(8) Extra travel subsidy for needy special school students</p> <p>(The enhanced travel subsidy is 50% of the amount of travel subsidy an eligible student can receive on top of the Student Travel Subsidy (STS) disbursed by SFO)</p>	October 2013 (a two-school year programme)	3.64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Needy special school students from Primary one to Secondary six who are physically disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, mildly, moderately or severely intellectually disabled, and are receiving full grant or half grant of STS from SFO. 	3 462 persons	Around 3.35	<p>As at 30 June 2015, subsidy was disbursed to all 3 462 primary and secondary students receiving STS grant from SFO.</p> <p>The evaluation results and the arrangement on regularisation of the programme in the school year 2015/16 were reported to the CCF Task Force in May 2015.</p>
(9) One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving CSSA	The programme was first launched in December 2013	638.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons renting on a monthly basis private permanent housing, industrial buildings or commercial buildings; persons renting bedspaces 	52 147 households (126 266 persons)	Around 384.90	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in August 2014 which approved to relaunch the programme.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(When the programme was first launched: A subsidy of \$3,500 for one-person household; \$7,000 for two-person household; and \$10,000 for three-or-more-person household)			offered under the Home Affairs Department (HAD)'s Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; homeless persons; or persons residing in vessels;			
(When the programme was relaunched: A subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person household; \$8,000 for two-person household; \$11,000 for three-person household; and \$13,000 for four-or-more-person household)	The programme was relaunched in January 2015	610.95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; ● not receiving CSSA; and ● not owning any property in Hong Kong. 	34 982 households (69 766 persons)	Around 264.05	<p>As at 30 June 2015, the CCF Secretariat has received around 37 100 replies from the old application households confirming their eligibility and 17 100 new applications.</p> <p>The CoP agreed in principle at its meeting in March 2015 to launch the programme for the third time in January</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
						2016. At its meeting in July 2015, the CCF Task Force considered the evaluation results of the relaunched programme and supported the detailed proposal of launching the programme for the third time. The relevant paper will be submitted to the CoP for consideration.
(10) Incentive scheme to further encourage CSSA recipients of the Integrated Employment	April 2014 (a three-year programme)	226.62	● CSSA recipients of the IEAPS.	2 050 ⁵ persons	Around 6.73	The third meeting of the working group set up under the CCF Task Force was held on 24 March 2015 to follow up on the

⁵ This is the number of CSSA recipients randomly selected from IEAPS cases who agree to participate in the incentive scheme, which is also the target number of beneficiaries of the incentive scheme. As at 30 June 2015, 12 participants took up employment with income equal to/exceeding their CSSA recognized needs, subsequent to which they left the CSSA net with the accumulated incentive payment disbursed to them by SWD.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
Assistance Programme for Self-reliance (IEAPS) to secure employment						progress of implementing the scheme and the related evaluation study.
<p>(11) Pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low income families</p> <p>(A monthly subsidy of \$2,000 would be given to each eligible carer who takes care of one elderly person and a maximum of \$4,000 each for those who take care of more than one elderly person at the same time.)</p>	June 2014 (a two-year pilot scheme)	126	<p>Carer of the elderly person should meet the following eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the elderly person(s) being taken care of should be living in Hong Kong and assessed by Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services to have impairment at moderate or severe level, and has/have been on the Central Waiting List 	1 972 carers	Around 35.54	<p>SWD has authorised 33 NGOs that operate District Elderly Community Centres (DECCs) and/or Neighbourhood Elderly Centres (NECs) as approved service providers⁶ to assist in providing support services to the carers under the pilot scheme.</p> <p>The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.</p>

⁶ 125 DECCs and NECs in total across the territory.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>(CWL) for subsidised long term care services on or before 31 December 2013;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the elderly person(s) being taken care of is/are not using any residential care services during the period of application and throughout their participation in the pilot scheme; ● be capable of taking up the care-giving role, and is required to provide at least 80 hours of care-giving work per month (or not less than 120 hours per month for taking care of more 			

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			<p>than one elderly person, and the second elderly person concerned should have been on the CWL for subsidised long term care services since the date of the roll-out of the pilot scheme);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● be a Hong Kong resident not engaging in any form of employment relationship with the elderly person(s) of whom he/she is taking care of; ● not receiving CSSA or OALA; and ● monthly household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding 			

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			MMDHI.			
(12) Providing hostel subsidy for needy undergraduate students	2014/15 school year (a three-school year programme)	137	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full-time undergraduates of public-funded or self-financing locally-accredited programmes at degree level; ● passed the means test of the Tertiary Student Finance Scheme – Publicly-funded Programmes (TSFS) or the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP); ● resided in student hostels provided by their institutions; and ● confirmed by their institutions to have 	5 174 person-times	around 16.09	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			resided in student hostels in the semesters of the implementation period.			
(13) Increasing the academic expenses grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students	2014/15 school year (a three-school year programme)	151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full-time students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing programmes at sub-degree or degree level; and ● eligible students of FASP who have passed the means test of SFO. 	22 839 person-times	Around 35.94	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.
(14) Provision of a one-off special subsidy for students on full grant under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme (STAS) before the	late July/ early August 2015 (a one-off special subsidy programme)	501.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary and secondary students receiving full grant under the STAS of SFO. 	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	Not applicable (Note: Since the programme aims to provide a one-off assistance to students from low-income families before the launch of the LIFA

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>launch of the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme</p> <p>(A one-off grant of \$3,600 for each eligible student from primary and secondary schools)</p>						<p>Scheme and the Labour and Welfare Bureau is working on the preparation work for the relevant Scheme, the CoP agreed at its meeting in March 2015 that evaluation of the programme would not be required.)</p>
<p>(15) Provision of funding for ordinary schools to arrange special educational needs coordinators (SENCO)</p> <p>(A subsidy of around \$0.52 million and around \$0.45 million is provided to each eligible primary school and secondary school)</p>	<p>2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)</p>	<p>196.84</p>	<p>Public sector ordinary secondary and primary schools meeting the following two criteria in the 2014/15 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the number of financially-needy students should account for at least 55% of the total number of students of the school (including students 	<p>Programme not yet implemented</p>	<p>Programme not yet implemented</p>	<p>The Education Bureau has issued letters to invite eligible schools to participate in the pilot programme, and a briefing was conducted on 15 May 2015 for the schools concerned. As at 30 June 2015, 54 primary schools and 55 secondary schools participated in the</p>

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
respectively. Experts will be commissioned to provide training to SENCOs. The expenditure involved is around \$1.43 million)			receiving CSSA, full grant or half grant under the student financial assistance schemes); and ● should have at least 50 students with special educational needs (SEN) who are those in need of Tier-2 or Tier-3 support under the 3-Tier Intervention Model.			pilot programme. At its meeting in July 2015, the CCF Task Force supported the proposal of granting additional funding provision for the pilot programme. The relevant proposal will be submitted to CoP for consideration. The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.
(16) Enhancing the academic expenses grant for students with SEN pursuing post-secondary programmes (An additional	2015/16 school year (a three-school year programme)	12.46	● Students who are eligible for assistance under the TSFS or FASP and have passed the income test and asset test of the SFO; and	Programme not yet implemented	Programme not yet implemented	The evaluation results will be reported to the CCF Task Force in future.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
academic expenses grant up to \$8,000 for each eligible student per year)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● must be identified with at least one type of SEN including learning difficulties, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and speech and language impairment. 			

(B) Assistance programmes regularised/ completed

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(1) Subsidy for needy patients of HA who marginally fall outside the SF safety net for the use of SF subsidised drugs (To subsidise the drug costs borne by patient beneficiaries for the relevant drug treatment)	January 2012	4.278	● The prevailing SF financial assessment mechanism was adopted by applying a more relaxed patient contribution ratio than that for the SF i.e. the patient's maximum contribution ratio is 20%.	280 person-times ⁷	4.278 ⁸	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012. The programme has been incorporated into the regular mechanism of the SF with effect from 1 September 2012.
(2) Financial assistance for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland for taking language-related	September 2011 (a two-year programme)	0.502	● Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for CSSA Scheme, student financial assistance	428 persons	0.452	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in July 2013. The programme has been incorporated into HAD's regular

⁷ The programme ceased operation on 31 August 2012, and this is the actual figure of the beneficiary statistics (the number of beneficiaries has been adjusted as a result of a subsidy recovery case in September 2014).

⁸ The programme ceased operation on 31 August 2012, and this is the actual expenditure of the programme (the amount of disbursement has been adjusted as a result of the recovery of around \$15,000 in September 2014).

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
international public examinations (Reimbursement of relevant examination fees to beneficiaries on an accountable basis)			schemes or HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or ● household income below 75% of the MMDHI.			support services with effect from 26 September 2013.
(3) Subsidy for non-school-attending ethnic minorities and new arrivals from the Mainland participating in language courses (A subsidy of \$350 to \$700 is provided for participating in dedicated language courses of the Employees Retraining Board)	March 2012	0.128	● Passed the family/household-based means-test establishing eligibility for CSSA Scheme, student financial assistance schemes or HA Medical Fee Waiving Mechanism; or ● household income below 75% of the MMDHI.	171 persons	0.061	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in July 2013. The programme has been incorporated into HAD's regular support service with effect from 26 September 2013.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>(4) Subsidy for CSSA recipients who are owners of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above and not eligible for rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme</p> <p>(A subsidy of \$2,000 per household)</p>	September 2011 (a one-off subsidy programme)	1.73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSSA households meeting the relevant criteria as at 1 July 2011. 	825 households	1.65	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 April 2014.
<p>(5) Subsidy for low-income elderly tenants in private housing</p> <p>(A subsidy of \$4,000 for one-person elderly household; \$8,000 for two-person elderly household; and \$12,000 for three-or-more-person</p>	July 2012 (A one-off subsidy programme with the application period closed on 31 January 2013)	11.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elderly households aged 65 or above; ● not receiving CSSA; ● household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; and ● not owning any property in Hong Kong. 	2 093 households (2 595 persons)	Around 10.38	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2013.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
elderly household)						
(6) Subsidy for low-income persons who are inadequately housed (A subsidy of \$3,000 for one-person household; \$6,000 for two-person household; and \$8,000 for three-or-more-person household)	October 2012 (a one-off subsidy programme with the application period closed on 8 April 2013)	155.47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons renting on a monthly basis rooms/cubicles, cocklofts or bedspaces in private permanent housing; persons renting bedspaces offered under HAD's Singleton Hostel Programme; persons residing in temporary housing; or homeless persons; ● household income and rent not exceeding the specified limits; ● not receiving CSSA; and ● not owning any property in Hong Kong. 	25 764 households (59 010 persons)	Around 150.18	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2013.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>(7) Setting up the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) to subsidise primary and secondary school students from low-income families to participate in cross boundary learning activities and competitions</p> <p>(A subsidy of not more than \$3,000 for each benefited student to participate in cross-boundary learning activities and competitions respectively)</p>	July 2011 (a three-year programme)	191.49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students receiving full or half grant from the SFO; ● students receiving CSSA; or ● students meeting the “financially needy” criteria as determined by individual schools. 	74 115 persons	Around 185.88	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2014 which approved to suspend the programme after completion in 2013-14. Schools can apply for funding to conduct cross-boundary learning activities through the Quality Education Fund mechanism.
(8) Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary	September 2011 (a three-school	434.59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whole-day primary school students receiving full grant 	178 076 person-times ⁹	Around 430.21	The evaluation results were reported to the

⁹ Including 56 387, 60 386 and 61 303 beneficiaries in the school years of 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
<p>schools for students from low-income families</p> <p>(The subsidy level is determined by the actual fee charged by lunch suppliers and the subsidy is directly paid to lunch suppliers through the schools)</p>	year programme)		from SFO and having lunch as arranged by their schools.			former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012 and it supported the regularisation of the programme. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 September 2014.
<p>(9) Enhancement of the flat rate grant under the STAS</p> <p>(An additional grant of \$1,000 or \$500, depending on the conditions)</p>	October 2013 (a one-school year programme)	263.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary and secondary students receiving full and half grant under the STAS (an additional grant of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for each student); and ● primary and secondary students on CSSA (an 	312 355 persons (including 235 284 students meeting the eligibility criteria for the STAS under SFO and 77 071 students on CSSA)	Around 263.07 (including around \$186.06 million disbursed by SFO and around \$77.01 million disbursed by SWD)	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in June 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			additional grant of \$1,000 for each student)			1 September 2014.
(10) Enhancement of the financial assistance for needy students pursuing programmes below sub-degree level (Including the “Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme” and the “Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant”)	October 2013 (a one-school year programme)	50.62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target beneficiaries of the “Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme” are students enrolling in eligible courses below sub-degree level; ● target beneficiaries of the “Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant” are students enrolling in eligible courses with duration of one year or above; the grant amount will be on par with the enhanced flat-rate grant receivable by eligible primary and secondary students after enhancement 	<p>Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme: 2 779 persons</p> <p>Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant : 4 524 persons (including 2 819 Vocational Training Council (VTC) students and 1 705 Yi Jin Diploma students)</p>	<p>Tuition Fee Reimbursement Scheme: Around 43.04</p> <p>Flat-rate Academic Expense Grant: Around 7.58 (including \$4.65 million for VTC students and \$2.93 million for Yi Jin Diploma students)</p>	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in June 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government’s regular assistance programme with effect from 1 September 2014.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
			(i.e. \$2,094 and \$1,047 for each full-grant and half-grant student respectively) in the 2013/14 school year.			
(11) Training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services (A monthly subsidy of not more than \$2,615)	December 2011 (extension of implementation in November 2012, July 2013 and February 2014 respectively)	62.89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services on or before 31 January 2014; and ● household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding MMDHI. 	2 840 persons	Around 59.9	The evaluation results were reported to the former Steering Committee on the CCF in May 2012. The programme has been incorporated into the Government's regular assistance programme with effect from 1 October 2014.
(12) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for renting	January 2013 (extension of implementation in September	7.92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Renting respiratory support medical equipment without any relevant 	260 persons	Around 7.54	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2014.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
respiratory support medical equipment (According to the monthly household income and annual household disposable financial resources, the subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (\$2,500 or \$2,000 per month); “three-quarters grant” (\$1,875 or \$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (\$1,250 or \$1,000 per month))	2013 and May 2014 respectively)		assistance, at the same time living in the community and receiving HDA under the SSA Scheme; and ● household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding MMDHI and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000.			The programme has been incorporated into the Government’s regular assistance programme with effect from 1 November 2014.
(13) Special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment	September 2013 (extension of implementation in May 2014)	2.07	● Using respiratory support medical equipment without receiving any relevant subsidy to purchase related medical consumables, at the same time living in	175 persons	Around 1.97	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in March 2014. The programme has been incorporated into the Government’s regular assistance

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(According to the monthly household income, the subsidy is disbursed in “full grant” (a maximum of \$2,000 per month); “three-quarters grant” (a maximum of \$1,500 per month) or “half grant” (a maximum of \$1,000 per month))			<p>the community and receiving HDA under the SSA Scheme; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● household income not exceeding 150% of the corresponding MMDHI and the annual household disposable financial resources not exceeding \$180,000. 			programme with effect from 1 November 2014.
(14) Subsidy for elders aged 65 or above from low-income families who are on the waiting list for IHCS (Ordinary Cases) for household cleaning service and escorting services for medical consultations	October 2011 (extension of implementation in December 2012)	15.256	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aged 65 or above; living in the community; and have been on the waiting list for IHCS (Ordinary Cases) on or before 31 October 2012; and ● household income not exceeding 75% of the corresponding MMDHI. 	1 341 persons	Around 10.2	The evaluation results were reported to the CoP in May 2013. The programme was completed on 31 December 2014.

Assistance programme (Disbursement amount)	Implementation date	Funding provision (\$ million)	Major eligibility criteria	Beneficiary statistics (as at 30 June 2015)	Disbursements (\$ million) (as at 30 June 2015)	Progress and evaluation
(A monthly subsidy of not more than \$560)						