

CCF to accept applications from four-or-more-person households for second round of living subsidy for non-public housing and non-CSSA households

The following is issued on behalf of the Community Care Fund Secretariat:

The Community Care Fund (CCF) will start accepting applications from four-or-more-person households for the second round of the One-off Living Subsidy for Low-income Households Not Living in Public Housing and Not Receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) programme (the 2021 Programme) from tomorrow (April 1).

Beneficiaries should currently be renting accommodation on a monthly basis (or for longer tenures) in private housing, industrial buildings, commercial buildings or social housing operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs); renting bedspaces offered under the Home Affairs Department's Singleton Hostel Programme or bedspaces in hostels operated by NGOs for rehabilitated offenders; residing in temporary housing; living on board vessels; or homeless. Their monthly income must not exceed the specified limits. They should not be receiving CSSA or own any property in Hong Kong. For persons renting accommodation in private housing, industrial buildings, commercial buildings or social housing, their monthly rent should not exceed the specified rent limits. The income and rent limits for four-person households, five-person households and six-or-more-person households are as follows:

Household size (persons)	Household income limit (\$)	Household rent limit (\$) (if applicable)
4	33,500	16,750
5	36,900	18,450
6 or above	40,800	20,400

Eligible households that benefited from the first round of the Programme (the 2020 Programme), which was launched during the period from July 2 to November 30, 2020 (i.e. old applicant households), can benefit again, among those four-or-more-person households will receive notifications for confirming eligibility from the Secretariat starting from April. Old applicant households that still meet the eligibility criteria of the 2021 Programme should complete the reply slips with appendices (if appropriate) attached to the notifications and return completed slips to the service unit which assisted to process the applications of the households concerned under the 2020 Programme or the Secretariat to confirm eligibility on or before May

31. Upon verification of the eligibility, the Secretariat will send notifications of the eligibility verification results to the applicant households. The Secretariat will arrange to disburse the subsidy to eligible households according to their chosen methods under the 2020 Programme (i.e. either through bank transfer or by order cheque).

If there are changes in the circumstances of old applicant households (such as there are new eligible members and/or changes of the specified applicants), they are still required to complete the reply slips and return them to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will forward these households' information to the relevant service units, which will contact the households to submit a specified application form (i.e. Form 1).

New four-or-more-person applicant households should submit application forms (i.e. Form 2) together with copies of all the required documents to respective service units near their places of residence either in person or by post starting from tomorrow. Households comprising solely elderly persons aged 60 or above, households comprising solely young persons aged 24 or below or the homeless can submit applications to elderly service units, youth service units or service units accepting applications from the homeless respectively. Owing to the latest development of the COVID-19 pandemic, some service units may have adjusted their operating hours. Applicants are advised to submit applications by post. Applicants who wish to submit applications to the service units in person are suggested to call the service units for the operating hours. Service units may require applicants to make bookings in advance.

The Secretariat and service units will vet each application, including verifying the eligibility, checking the supporting documents submitted, and conducting home visits/means tests on selected applications. The Secretariat will issue notifications of results to applicants after vetting applications and disburse the subsidy to eligible households. If households choose to receive the subsidy through bank transfer, the subsidy will be deposited into the bank accounts as specified in their application forms through autopay. For households that choose to receive the subsidy in the form of order cheques, the service units concerned will inform them to collect the cheques in person at the service units before the specified period.

The 2021 Programme was launched on January 4 to relieve the financial pressure on low-income households. The subsidy levels of the 2021 Programme are as follows:

Household size (persons)	Subsidy amount (\$)
1	4,500
2	9,000
3	12,500
4	14,500
5 or above	15,500

The Secretariat started accepting applications from one-person households, two-person households and three-person households on January 4, February 1 and March 1 respectively.

For details of the 2021 Programme, please visit the CCF website (www.communitycarefund.hk). Enquiries can be addressed to the enquiry hotline of the Programme on 2180 6666 or the 220 service units assisting in the implementation of the Programme.

[Latest arrangements for LCSD public services](#)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (March 31) that, in view of the latest situation of COVID-19, more leisure and cultural venues of the LCSD will reopen gradually from April 1 (Thursday).

In order to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), LCSD staff at relevant venues will undergo polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) nucleic acid tests for COVID-19 and ensure necessary measures are adopted at reopened venues. Users of sports premises, swimming pools, performance venues, museums and public libraries are required to scan the "LeaveHomeSafe" QR code or register their name, contact number and the date and time of the visit before being allowed to enter for necessary contact tracing if a confirmed case is found. Appeals are made to members of the public to download and install the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile app in advance and scan the QR code with the app before entering. Members of the public who opt for registering their personal information at the scene are reminded to arrive earlier to avoid delaying their visits as longer time is required for such registration. The venue staff may immediately call the contact number provided by the visitor to verify the authenticity of information.

Leisure facilities to be reopened include outdoor children's play facilities, some public swimming pools and gazetted beaches. Lifeguard services will be provided at some gazetted beaches.

Outdoor children's play facilities will reopen on April 1 and the LCSD will step up cleaning work at the facilities. Members of the public are called on to clean their children's hands before and after using the facilities. Children with symptoms of fever or respiratory infection should not enter the children's play facilities.

Thirty-five public swimming pools will be reopened from April 2 (Friday) and the number of users in swimming pools is limited to 30 per cent of the

original capacity. Details are at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/common/documents/reopen_annex1_042021.pdf. For details of facilities in swimming pools to be reopened, please refer to the notices displayed at the venues. The reopened swimming pools will be open from 6.30am to 10pm for three sessions daily with two breaks.

In addition, the LCSd announced that lifeguard services will be provided at 15 gazetted beaches from April 2. Please refer to www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/common/documents/reopen_annex2_042021.pdf for details of the beaches concerned. Lifeguard services will be provided daily at the above gazetted beaches from 9am to 6pm. The services will be extended from 8am to 7pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays during the peak period from June to August. Apart from the 15 gazetted beaches mentioned above, lifeguard services at other beaches will remain suspended. The public should not swim at the beaches without lifeguard services to avoid accidents.

The LCSd will adopt special measures when reopening public swimming pools and gazetted beaches. These measures include:

Swimming pools:

- Temporarily limiting the number of users in swimming pools to 30 per cent of the original capacity to maintain distance among swimmers, and opening some pool facilities only;
- Distributing numbered tickets to people lining up when the numbers of users in swimming pools have reached the temporary maximum pool capacity, and reminding them to take note of the numbers shown on the queuing board in order to avoid people gathering;
- Arranging body temperature screening for all people before entering swimming pools. Those with symptoms such as fever or respiratory illness will not be allowed to enter the swimming pools;
- Ensuring appropriate distance between users of shower facilities, with shower heads that are not within individual cubicles being open but at 1.5 metres apart;
- For team sports, the maximum number of players or swimmers and referees to be allowed in each pool at any time during competition or training match should follow the rules and regulations of respective sports competition;
- Each training group or class must consist of no more than four persons including the coach. There must be a distance of at least 1.5m between each training group/class. For a training group/class of more than four persons, it must be conducted in a way to ensure that persons are arranged in sub-groups of no more than four persons and there is a distance of at least 1.5m between each sub-group;
- Ensuring members of the public wear masks at all times within swimming pools except when they are swimming, having a shower, walking from a changing room to a pool or vice versa, walking from a pool to another pool, or doing warm-up exercises with a distance of at least 1.5m from others. Coaches must wear masks at all times when coaching; and
- Temporarily limiting the number of persons in the spectator stands at swimming pools to 75 per cent of the original capacity. No more than four consecutive seats can be occupied in the same row.

Gazetted beaches:

- Members of the public must comply with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap 599G). The number of people in group gatherings should not be more than four;
- Members of the public must wear masks at all times when being present on beaches in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) Regulation (Cap 599I); and
- Closing barbecue sites within gazetted beaches.

Indoor children's play rooms, the Pui O Campsite and barbecue sites will continue to be closed until further notice.

Meanwhile, booking applications for amphitheatres, leisure venues for non-designated use and sales activities at non-fee-charging leisure venues, as well as applications for road safety towns and the standby arrangement for non-fee charging land recreation facilities, are suspended until further notice.

For cultural venues, the limit on the number of audience members/users in each facility of the LCSD performance venues will be relaxed on April 1, with seating capacity to be increased from 50 to 75 per cent of the original. Consecutive seats will be limited to four. The anti-epidemic measures applied to performance venues will be maintained. For details, please refer to the notifications of individual venues.

All museums (except the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence) will partially reopen their exhibition facilities and public programmes from April 2. Admission quotas will be implemented to limit visitor flow. The Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Space Museum will apply admission by sessions. Some interactive exhibits will remain suspended. The Resource Centre and box office of the Hong Kong Film Archive will be reopened, while the Exhibition Hall and the Cinema will remain closed for maintenance work. Please visit the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Space Museum websites (www.hk.science.museum and hk.space.museum) for their respective opening details.

All 32 small libraries will be reopened from April 3 and will implement special opening hours. The opening hours of the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) and six other major public libraries will return to normal on April 7. To avoid people gathering, all public libraries will apply admission quotas. The facilities to be reopened include the adult, young adult and children's libraries and students' study rooms. Some of the computer facilities will resume service and open for telephone booking. The newspapers and periodicals areas will be reopened with reduced seating capacity. Reference libraries in the HKCL and six other major public libraries will also be reopened with reference enquiry services resumed. Other facilities including Kid's Internet & Digital Service workstations will remain closed. Please visit the public libraries website for details (www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/index.html).

All instrumental music training classes, musicianship classes, and some

outreach music courses organised by the Music Office will resume face-to-face classes from April 8 onwards. The number of participants, including instructors within a class, will be limited to four per group or the maximum number of people as stipulated by the law. In light of public health considerations, both Chinese and Western wind instrumental classes will continue to be conducted online until further notice.

Visitors to facilities of performance venues, museums, public libraries and music centres will need to use hand sanitiser and will be subject to temperature checks before admission. They also need to wear their own masks. Children under 12 will only be allowed to enter public libraries and museums when accompanied by an adult. Enhanced measures including cleaning and disinfection between sessions will be conducted.

The LCSD will pay close attention to the latest developments of the pandemic, as well as the requirements for scheduled premises as stipulated in the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F), and review or revise the above reopening arrangements in due course.

[Appointments to Family Council](#)

The Government announced today (March 31) the appointment of Ms Melissa Kaye Pang as the Chairman of the Family Council, as well as the appointment of four new members and the re-appointment of 11 members to the Council for a term of two years with effect from April 1, 2021.

Ms Pang is a practising solicitor and is currently the President of the Law Society of Hong Kong. She has a strong commitment and dedication to serving the community. She is an incumbent member of various advisory bodies, including the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Operations Review Committee of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service, etc. Ms Pang was also the Chairman of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education from April 2015 to March 2021.

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) thanked the outgoing Chairman, Professor Daniel Shek Tan-lei, for his efforts and contribution in promoting the work of the Council. Professor Shek first served as a member of the Council from December 2007 to March 2013, before assuming the Council's chairmanship since April 2013. Under Professor Shek's leadership, the Council has strengthened its work to promote family core values through organising various programmes and activities. He also tendered invaluable advice to the Government on family-related policies and strategies.

The HAB also expressed gratitude to the outgoing members for their

dedication and contribution to the work of the Council during their terms of service.

New members appointed are Mr Arnold Chan Kwan-yeung, Professor Eric Chen Yu-hai, Mr Warren Luk Hua and Mr Jeremy Young Chit-on. Re-appointed members are Ms May Chan Suk-mei, Ms Cheung Lai-chu, Ms Lavender Cheung Wang-yim, Mr Eugene Fong Yick-jin, Dr Lam Chi-yan, Professor Albert Lee, Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung, Dr Margaret Wong Fung-ye, Mrs Cecilia Wong Ng Kit-wah, Mr Clement Woo Kin-man and Ms Amarantha Yip Yun-wan.

The official members of the Council include the Secretary for Home Affairs, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, the Secretary for Education and the Head of the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office, or their representatives.

Since its establishment in 2007, the Council has served as a cross-sector and cross-bureau platform for examining family-related policies and promoting a culture of loving families in the community. Membership of the Council comprises official members, non-official members from various backgrounds, as well as the Chairpersons of the Elderly Commission and the Women's Commission, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Youth Development Commission as ex-officio members.

[Flag days in 2021-22](#)

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has approved 112 organisations, out of 220 applications received, to hold flag days to raise funds for their charitable projects on 48 Saturdays and eight Wednesdays which fall on school or public holidays in 2021-22 (see Annex for details). Flag sales will be conducted from 7am to 12.30pm on the approved flag days.

A spokesman for the SWD said today (March 31) that in order to allow more organisations to conduct flag sales, 28 flag days have been assigned as Regional Flag Days in 2021-22. On each Regional Flag Day, three organisations will sell flags to solicit donations concurrently, one each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories.

For easy identification, the spokesman said that flag day organisers are required to put the name of the organisation and the mark "Approved by Social Welfare Department" on the money collection bags. Moreover, some approved flag day organisers will also use Octopus card readers on their allocated flag days, with the pouches bearing the name of the respective organisations and the statement "Approved by Social Welfare Department".

The spokesman appealed to flag day organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud. They should make a report to the SWD and inform

the Police of any loss of property, and seek their help if fraudulent acts such as tampering with collection bags or unauthorised fundraising are noted.

Members of the public can visit the SWD's homepage (www.swd.gov.hk) and the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/fundraising) if they wish to check information on flag days. They are also welcome to call the SWD hotline at 2343 2255, or the designated hotline of the 1823 Call Centre at 3142 2678.

The spokesman also said that the Government has promulgated the "Good Practice Guide on Charitable Fund-raising" to help charities to improve the transparency and accountability of their charitable fund-raising activities. The Good Practice Guide covers areas on donors' rights, fund-raising practices and financial accountability. The Good Practice Guide is accessible on the SWD's homepage.

[Appointments of Chairman and members of Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education](#)

The Government today (March 31) announced the appointment of Mr Stanley Choi Tak-shing as the Chairman of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) as well as the appointment of four new members and the re-appointment of 10 members for a two-year term starting from April 1, 2021.

A Government spokesman said Mr Choi is currently a member of various advisory bodies, including the CPCE, the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee and the Quality Education Fund Steering Committee, etc.

The spokesman said, "Mr Choi was first appointed to the CPCE in 2018 and has since been dedicated to the work of the CPCE. He has actively provided advice to various sub-committees under the CPCE on matters related to the promotion of civic education. He has also lent strong support to many civic education activities organised by the CPCE."

The spokesman thanked the outgoing Chairman, Ms Melissa Kaye Pang, for her contributions to the work of the CPCE. Ms Pang first served as a CPCE member from April 2009 to March 2015, before assuming the CPCE's chairmanship since April 2015.

The spokesman said, "Ms Pang has devoted much time and tremendous efforts to the work of the CPCE over the past years, with fruitful achievements during her tenure. Under Ms Pang's leadership, the CPCE has strengthened its work on the promotion of core civic values and publicised the messages of respect and inclusiveness to enhance social harmony. It has

also organised large-scale events to promote the Basic Law."

The spokesman also extended the Government's gratitude to the outgoing members for their efforts in promoting the work of the CPCE.

New members appointed are Mr Dave Ho, Dr Hoey Simon Lee, Miss Christine Leung Wan-chong and Ms Wong Kit-lin. Re-appointed members are Miss Catherina Choy Mei-wa, Ms Amy Fung Dun-mi, Miss Maisy Ho Chiu-ha, Mr Kinsey Ho Ka-tsun, Mr Rex Ip Yik-nam, Reverend Peter Douglas Koon Ho-ming, Ms Shirley Marie Therese Loo, Mr Laurence Tang Yat-long, Dr Yan Wai-kiu and Ms Jennifer Yeung Yin-chi.

The official members of the CPCE include representatives from the Home Affairs Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Information Services Department, the Department of Justice, the Social Welfare Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, Radio Television Hong Kong and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The CPCE is a non-statutory advisory body tasked to promote civic education outside schools. It advises the Government on the objective and scope of civic education, promotes civic education outside schools through a range of publicity and educational programmes, and sponsors eligible organisations to carry out civic education projects through funding schemes.