

Community Care Fund

Details of the “Trial Scheme on Special Allowance for Households of Transitional Housing” (Trial Scheme)

Part I – Background

The Government has stepped up efforts in promoting the development of transitional housing in recent years. With a view to alleviating the hardship faced by applicants waiting for traditional public rental housing (PRH) and those who are inadequately housed, the Government actively assists and facilitates non-government organisations (NGOs) to make use of short-term vacant land and premises as well as provides subsidies to the construction projects, so as to increase the supply of transitional housing. The Government has identified land for providing over 20 000 transitional housing units and the intake for many of these projects will commence progressively at the second half of 2023 and 2024.

The Government envisages that a lot of applicants may need to relocate across districts and adapt to a new environment. As a result, additional expenses will unavoidably be incurred (such as the expenses for moving, purchasing furniture and/or electrical appliances, transferring schools for their children and rebuilding the community network). With the grant from the Community Care Fund, the Housing Bureau (HB) launches the “Trial Scheme on Special Allowance for Households of Transitional Housing” (Trial Scheme) in support of the new households of transitional housing for removal and adaptation to the living environment.

The Trial Scheme accepts applications from 22 August 2023 for a period of two years (i.e. from 22 August 2023 to 21 August 2025). The HB coordinates and assists the operating organisations of the transitional housing projects under the “Funding Scheme to Support Transitional Housing Projects by Non-government Organisations” (Funding Scheme) in providing a one-off special allowance to eligible households so that they can get timely support and encouragement in the course of moving into the transitional housing and adapting to the new environment.

For details of the Trial Scheme, please visit the following website:

<https://www.hb.gov.hk/eng/policy/housing/policy/transitional/allowance.html>

Part II – Eligibility for Application

1. The applicant and household members residing with him/her¹ must be the **household** of a transitional housing project under the Funding Scheme²;
2. The applicant and all household members residing with him/her under the Trial Scheme **must be the same as** his / her application of the transitional housing under the Funding Scheme in terms of names and number of people; and
3. The applicant’s moving into the transitional housing unit must be after the announcement of the Trial Scheme (i.e. **on or after 16 June 2023**).

¹ The applicant under the Trial Scheme must be the same as the applicant under the Funding Scheme. In general, household members residing with the applicant refer to all household members residing with the applicant in the unit allocated under the same Funding Scheme application.

² The household of a transitional housing project under the Funding Scheme refers to persons who have signed a tenancy contract/agreement with an operating organisation under the Funding Scheme for renting a transitional housing unit.

Part III – Application Procedures

1. Households who have met the above criteria can, during the implementation of the Trial Scheme, download the application form from the HB’s website or request a copy of it from the operating organisation of the transitional housing project they are residing in.
2. Applicants should apply for the special allowance as soon as possible after they have signed a tenancy contract/agreement with the operating organisation. The completed application form should be mailed or handed directly to **the operating organisation** for verification and assessment.
3. As some applicants might not be able to submit an application during or immediately after the removal period for various reasons, the Trial Scheme offers a grace period that allows eligible households to submit an application **within 3 months** after they have moved into the transitional housing unit. Any late applications will not be accepted.

Part IV – Application Assessment and Arrangement for Disbursing Allowance

1. Upon receipt of a completed application form, the operating organisation will immediately verify the information provided by the applicant and process the application as soon as possible.
2. The operating organisation will notify the applicant of the result within 10 working days from receipt of application.
3. If the application is found to be “eligible”, the operating organisation will disburse the special allowance to the applicant within 10 working days after notification of the result. If the applicant has not yet moved into the transitional housing upon receipt of such notification, the special allowance will be disbursed within 10 working days after the applicant has formally moved into the transitional housing.
4. If the application is found to be “ineligible”, the operating organisation will notify the applicant of the result together with the reasons.

Part V - Responsibilities of the Applicant

1. The applicant has to read carefully the “**Declaration and Undertaking by the Applicant**” in Part III of the application form and sign it for confirmation before submitting the application form. Information provided by the applicant must be true and complete. In case of any change of the relevant information, the applicant must notify the responsible operating organisation as soon as possible. The HB will also conduct random checks on the cases for assessment and the applicant will then have to provide detailed information for verification. If the applicant is found ineligible to receive the special allowance upon verification, the applicant must return the allowance to the HB through the operating organisation within 30 days.
2. Recipients of the special allowance are required to reside in the transitional housing project concerned **for at least one year**. Those who have resided for less than one year without a valid explanation or those who have been found ineligible for the special allowance after having moved into the transitional housing will be required to return the full amount or part of the special allowance received to the HB through the operating organisation within 30 days.
3. The applicant has to cooperate in the opinion survey conducted by the HB for the Trial Scheme.

4. Applicants who knowingly or wilfully make any false statement or withhold any information or mislead the HB / operating organisation in other ways may be liable to prosecution and disqualification of application. They may be required to return the full amount or part of the special allowance received to the HB through the operating organisation immediately.
5. Deliberate provision of false information or omission of information in order to obtain the special allowance for applicants themselves or their family members by deception is a criminal offence.

Part VI – Special Allowance Amounts

The Trial Scheme adopts an applicant-based disbursement approach, covering the applicant and all household members residing with him/her included in the application form. Each applicant and all members in his/her household can only receive the special allowance once during the implementation of the Trial Scheme. The special allowance amounts for eligible households are as follows:

Table 1: Households who will move / have moved into the transitional housing projects under the Funding Scheme located in the New Territories and Islands³

Household Size	Special Allowance Amount (\$)
1-person	3,650
2-person	5,450
3-person	7,100
4-person	8,450
5-person	9,700
6-person or above	11,550

Table 2: Households who will move / have moved into the transitional housing projects under the Funding Scheme located in urban and extended urban⁴

Household Size	Special Allowance Amount (\$)
1-person	1,800
2-person	2,700
3-person	3,550
4-person	4,200
5-person	4,850
6-person or above	5,750

³ New Territories (including Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, Sheung Shui, Fanling and Tai Po) and Islands (excluding Tung Chung)

⁴ Urban (including Hong Kong Island and Kowloon) and extended urban (including Tung Chung, Sha Tin, Ma On Shan, Tseung Kwan O, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi)