

Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly

Introduction

- The Social Welfare Department (SWD) launches the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (Pilot Scheme) commencing in March 2017. Adopting the principle of “money-following-the-user”, the Pilot Scheme will provide **an option** whereby elderly persons in need may choose to receive residential care service (RCS) at residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) run by Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) or private sector.

Eligibility Criteria of Elderly Participant

- Assessed under SWD’s Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services to be of moderate level of impairment; and
- Waitlisting for care and attention places on the Central Waiting List (CWL) of the Long Term Care Services Delivery System.

Recognised Service Providers (RSPs)

- RCHEs joining the Pilot Scheme as RSPs should meet the track record and service requirements as specified by SWD.
- The Pilot Scheme will be implemented in three phases with RSPs as follows –
Phase I: Subvented/contract/self-financing homes meeting entry requirements
Phase II: extended to the existing Enhanced Bought Place Scheme EA1 homes meeting entry requirements
Phase III: All RCHEs meeting entry requirements

Scope of Service

RSPs have to provide “**a standard service package**” under the voucher value for individual voucher holders as follows –

- accommodation within shared rooms;
- at least 3 meals a day plus snacks;
- basic and special nursing care;
- staff on duty 24 hours per day;
- personal care service;
- rehabilitative services session twice per week;
- regular visits by a registered medical practitioner;
- social or recreational activities on regular basis; and
- laundry service.

Voucher Value & Co-payment

- Sliding scale of co-payment with **8 levels** and each voucher applicant will be assessed on **individual basis** on both assets and income –

Levels	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
User co-payment ratio	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	62.5%	75%
User co-payment amount at 2017-18 price level* (\$)	0	1,261	2,522	3,783	5,044	6,305	7,881	9,457

*\$12,609 is the voucher value for 2017-18

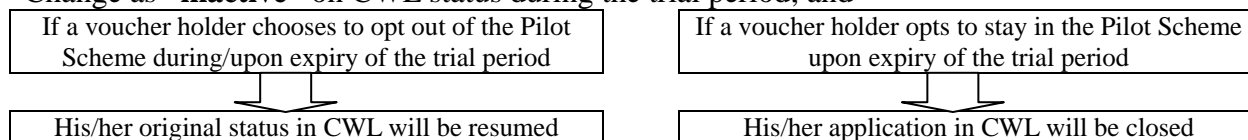
- Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients when opting to become voucher holders should withdraw from CSSA. They will be classified as under Co-payment Level 0.
- Voucher holders with Co-payment Level 0 will be granted:
 - Medical fee waiving for public healthcare expenses;
 - Full assistance under the Samaritan Fund and the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programme (if fulfill the application requirements);
 - Government subsidy to RSPs to cover the items, including diapers, special diet and medical consumables, for voucher holders with proven needs as assessed by public doctors.

Top-up Payment

Voucher holders and/or their families may make top-up payments to purchase enhanced or value-added services, e.g. single-room/double-room dormitory, acupuncture, etc., from RSPs, up to an amount of 75% of the full voucher value.

Trial Period and Application Status in CWL

- **6-month** trial period for each voucher holder under the Pilot Scheme;
- Change as **“inactive”** on CWL status during the trial period; and



Case Management Service

A Case management Team under SWD will provide case management service for voucher holders, e.g. selecting/switching RSPs and providing follow-up support to voucher holders.

How to Apply

- A total of **3 000 vouchers** will be issued to eligible elderly persons within 3 years through 5 rounds of invitation with a specified quota of vouchers for each round.
- SWD will announce each round of invitation for applications through SWD website and send invitations to a specified number of eligible elderly persons.
- If the number of applications received exceeds the voucher quota in a particular round, allocation will be prioritised according to applicants' position on CWL with specific quota also set for CSSA recipients. SWD will inform the applicants about the result by letters.

Enquiry

- Residential Care Service Voucher Office of SWD (Telephone: 3107 3280 / 3107 3290)
- Responsible workers of the elderly persons
- Visit SWD website at www.swd.gov.hk for the details of the Pilot Scheme and the list of RSPs