

Community Care Fund launches Phase III of subsidy for Owners' Corporations of Old Buildings

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

The Community Care Fund (CCF) rolled out two phases of subsidy programme in 2012 and 2015 to provide subsidies for owners' corporations (OCs) of old buildings. As the programme has effectively relieved the burden relating to the daily operating expenses of OCs of old buildings and helped them comply with relevant legislative requirements, the CCF will implement Phase III of the Programme on October 1 (Monday). Two enhancement measures will be implemented under Phase III of the Programme, including raising the upper limit on the annual average rateable value of residential units and raising the maximum amount of total subsidy in the implementation period for each OC, so as to benefit more OCs in need.

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) will continue to implement Phase III of the Programme. Each eligible OC may apply for the subsidy on an accountable basis in respect of each covered item carried out and expended during the three-year implementation period. The maximum amount of subsidy is 50 per cent of the actual expenses and each eligible OC can apply for a maximum amount of \$24,000 for the subsidy. All applications must be submitted to the HAD on or before September 30, 2021. The HAD will process the applications on a first-come, first-served basis and has the right to refuse eligible applications when funding is exhausted.

The items eligible for subsidy under Phase III of the Programme remain the same, including registration or filing fees at the Land Registry; procurement fees for public liability insurance or third party risks insurance for common areas of buildings; expenses for regular inspection of fire services installations and equipment or electrical installations; expenses for examination of lifts and expenses for clearing fire escapes once a year.

The target beneficiaries should be OCs of residential or composite (i.e. commercial/residential use) buildings aged 30 years or above. The annual average rateable value of the residential units in the urban areas (including Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan) should not exceed \$162,000, while those in the New Territories should not exceed \$124,000.

The HAD will initially identify OCs meeting the eligibility criteria and will invite them by mail to make applications. Those OCs which do not receive written notification from the HAD within October but consider themselves to meet the criteria may request the HAD for a review.

The guide and application form for the programme are available at Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the District Offices, or can be downloaded from

the building management website of the HAD (www.buildingmgmt.gov.hk).

For enquiries, please contact 2835 2500 or email to bm_enq@had.gov.hk.