

Government launches Financial Industry Recruitment Scheme for Tomorrow

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) today (September 25) announced that the Financial Industry Recruitment Scheme for Tomorrow (FIRST Scheme) under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund will be launched and open for application on September 30.

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Christopher Hui, said, "The FIRST Scheme is a cross-sectoral job creation scheme dedicated to the financial services industry under the Anti-epidemic Fund. The FSTB has set aside \$180 million for the Scheme to help create 1 500 new jobs in the financial services industry, which is hit by the pandemic, for employing local people and furthering the development of the industry."

Each eligible employer can apply for a salary subsidy of up to \$10,000 per month for each eligible new full-time position for 12 months. All the subsidies must be used to settle the pay for employees. The number of subsidised new positions is capped at 5 per cent of the employer's existing headcount, and each eligible employer may receive a subsidy for a maximum of 25 new positions.

The eligible employers must be organisations regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Insurance Authority; trustees approved by the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority or organisations registered with the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The candidates must be Hong Kong permanent residents.

The FSTB has commissioned the Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) to administer the Scheme. The FSDC will be responsible for the management of an online application system, approval of applications and distribution of subsidies granted under the Scheme. Interested employers can gather more details and submit applications via the Scheme's dedicated website (www.fsdcc.org.hk/en/first/about) starting from September 30. For enquiries, please call 3612 9951 or email to FIRST@fsdc.org.hk.