Pilot Scheme for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme Households Transitioning to Working Family Allowance Scheme

General Notes

1. Objectives of the Pilot Scheme

1.1 The Government will launch a three-year "Pilot Scheme for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Households Transitioning to Working Family Allowance Scheme" (Pilot Scheme) on 1 October 2026. The Pilot Scheme, which is funded by the Community Care Fund, encourages Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients with working capability to achieve self-reliance through continuous employment. The Pilot Scheme is administered by the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

1.2 Eligible households **leaving the CSSA Scheme on or after 1 October 2026** and joining the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme[1] may be eligible for **cash incentives totalling up to $45,000** under the Pilot Scheme.

1.3 All types of CSSA households may participate in the Pilot Scheme and a **separate sign-up is not required**. Households are only required to submit WFA applications. WFAO will identify potentially eligible households through data matching with the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and issue letters to notify them of the eligibility requirements for the cash incentives.

[1] For information regarding the WFA Scheme, please visit the WFA Scheme website (wfa.gov.hk).

2. Target Beneficiaries

2.1 The beneficiaries of the Pilot Scheme are households leaving the CSSA Scheme on or after 1 October 2026 and joining the WFA Scheme through continuous employment.

2.2 Under the Pilot Scheme, the definition of a household will follow that under the WFA Scheme, namely "a unit with persons having close economic ties (but excluding ties arising from employment relationships) and living on the same premises (in Hong Kong). This normally includes married couples and those who live on the same premises and share or are obliged to share provisions for a living". WFA applicants are required to report the details of their household members in every application.

3. Eligibility Requirements

3.1 To be eligible for the cash incentives, households should meet **all** the eligibility requirements below –

3.1.1 leave the CSSA Scheme on or after 1 October 2026;

3.1.2 submit WFA applications (claim months should fall within October 2026 to September 2029[2]); and

3.1.3 through continuous employment, have **at least two consecutive WFA applications approved** (i.e. covering 12 consecutive claim months) with **at least 10 claim months granted with WFA** during the 12 claim months.

3.2 Eligible households should have at least one eligible former CSSA recipient (i.e. a person who left the CSSA Scheme on or after 1 October 2026). The former CSSA recipient can either be a WFA applicant or a household member.

[2] The first WFA claim period which is counted for determining the eligibility for the cash incentives is October 2026 to March 2027, whereas the last one is September 2029 to February 2030.

3.3 Should there be any change in the household composition during the WFA claim months which are counted for determining the eligibility for the cash incentives, the household's eligibility will depend on whether there remains any eligible former CSSA recipient within that household.

3.4 During any WFA claim months which are counted for determining the eligibility for the cash incentives, all members within the household must **NOT** be a CSSA household member (except for the month leaving the CSSA Scheme).

3.5 As a general rule, for households which have received the cash incentive(s) and subsequently returned to the CSSA Scheme, they will not be eligible for any further cash incentive even if they left the CSSA Scheme again and re-joined the WFA Scheme.

4. Amount of the Cash Incentives

4.1 Irrespective of the household size and the rate of WFA approved[3], standard cash incentive payments will be disbursed as follows –

	Amount of cash incentive
First payment	$10,000
Second payment	$15,000
Third payment	$20,000

4.2 For households which met the eligibility requirements stated in paragraph 3 above, they will receive the first payment of the cash incentive of $10,000 per household after having received two

[3] The amount of WFA granted will depend on the household's income level and aggregated working hours.

consecutive WFA payments. If these households continue to work and meet the eligibility requirements, they will receive a higher amount of cash incentives in the second year and the third year, i.e. $15,000 for the second payment and $20,000 for the third payment respectively[4].

4.3 Each eligible household may receive **up to three payments of the cash incentives**, totalling $45,000.

4.4 The cash incentive will be disbursed directly to the households' bank account for receiving WFA payments.

5. Implementation Arrangements

5.1 All types of CSSA households may participate in the Pilot Scheme and a **separate sign-up is not required**. Households are only required to submit WFA application forms and the relevant documentary proof. WFAO will identify eligible households through data matching with SWD.

5.2 WFAO will issue letters to potentially eligible households (i.e. those left the CSSA Scheme on or after 1 October 2026 and have their first WFA applications approved[5]) to inform them of the requirements for receiving the cash incentive. After having received two consecutive WFA payments with at least 10 claim months granted with WFA and their eligibility for the cash incentive confirmed, WFAO will issue another letter to notify the households concerned.

5.3 On the other hand, WFAO will also issue letters to households which have left the CSSA Scheme on or after 1 October 2026 but are

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[4] There should not be any break in WFA claim periods in order for the households to be eligible for the higher amount of cash incentives. In other words, households should have four or six consecutive WFA applications approved in order to be eligible for the second or third payment of the cash incentives respectively.

[5] With at least four claim months approved with WFA in their first WFA applications (i.e. covering six claim months).

unable to meet the eligibility requirements, to inform them of the reasons for not meeting other eligibility requirements with a hope that they will be able to meet all the eligibility requirements for the cash incentive(s) in future.

6. Payment/Recovery of the Differential Amount of Cash Incentives

6.1 Following the established mechanism, WFAO will conduct review or investigation, etc. to examine processed WFA applications. Should such procedures or other reasons result in a change in the outcome of the processed WFA applications and thus affect the eligibility of the households concerned for the cash incentive(s), or the amount of cash incentive(s) that have been granted, WFAO will notify the households concerned accordingly, and arrange to pay the underpaid amount to them or request them to refund the overpaid amount as appropriate.

6.2 In the event that there is any overpayment of cash incentives under the Pilot Scheme, the households concerned must refund the overpaid amount in full in accordance with the instruction of WFAO.

7. Personal Data

WFAO will identify households which may be eligible to participate in the Pilot Scheme through data matching with SWD. Households are not required to sign up or provide any personal data separately. For households which wish to access and/or make corrections to the personal data provided under the WFA Scheme or the CSSA Scheme, they may contact WFAO or SWD as appropriate.

8. Enquiry

In case of any enquiry, please call the hotline of the Pilot Scheme at **3897 1897** during office hours. For more details of the Pilot Scheme, please scan the QR Code below to visit the website of the Pilot Scheme (CSSAtoWFA.gov.hk).

Working Family Allowance Office
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency
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