

Frequently-Asked-Questions on ComCare

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DEFINITION

Q1 What is the ComCare Fund?

A1 The ComCare Fund (or the Community Care Endowment Fund) is a new Government endowment fund. It is targeted at helping low-income Singaporeans and families tide over difficult times, and work towards self-reliance. It is also meant to assist needy Singaporeans who face financial difficulties e.g. elderly or people with disabilities who are not able to afford certain services.

Q2 What are the objectives of the ComCare Fund?

A2 The ComCare Fund aims to achieve the following:

- a. Help needy Singaporeans achieve self-reliance through sustainable programmes at the community level, thereby building social capacity for self-help over time. In implementing the ComCare Fund, we will avoid creating a welfare mentality or a sense of entitlement among those who are helped.
- b. Educate needy Singaporeans and deliver help more efficiently and effectively. With the introduction of the ComCare Fund, we will simplify our existing social assistance schemes, so that Singaporeans would find them easier to understand. We will also make sure that needy Singaporeans know where to turn to if they need assistance.

Q3 Who administers the ComCare Fund?

A3 The ComCare Fund is administered by the government, as it is a government endowment fund. The programmes under the ComCare Fund will be administered by the CDCs, with the help of grassroots organisations and voluntary welfare organisations.

DELIVERY

Q4 What is the role of the CDCs in social assistance?

A4 The CDCs are local administrators in their Districts. Being closer to the ground, they are in a better position to determine who needs help, and what kind of help they need. They are the sole administrators of the government nationwide social assistance schemes such as Public Assistance Scheme, the Self-Reliance Programme and Work Assistance Programme.

Q5 How are grassroots organisations involved in the ComCare Fund?

A5 The intention is to involve Advisers to Grassroots Organisations and grassroots organisations (GROs) in the delivery of social assistance, bearing in mind their good knowledge and feel of the need on the ground. There will be a sum of money set aside each year to allow the Citizens' Consultative Committees (CCCs) to set up CCC ComCare Funds to help their needy residents who do not qualify for the government nationwide social assistance schemes.

CRITERIA

Q6 What are the eligibility criteria of assistance under the ComCare Fund? How would needy families apply for the programmes under the ComCare Fund?

A6 The ComCare Fund is not a scheme. It is an endowment fund which will provide a regular and sustainable source of funds to cover the expenditure for social assistance schemes that help needy Singaporeans.

Those who need assistance can get in touch with their Community Development Councils or grassroots leaders. They can also call 1-800-COMCARE (1-800-2662273) for information on the ComCare assistance available.

More information on ComCare and its programmes can be found at www.mcys.gov.sg.

Q7 How are the applicants for assistance means-tested?

A7 The CDCs will means-test the applicants by looking into their family's circumstances. For example, this will include an assessment of the number of people in their family, their income, savings, availability of support network, employability, and their other needs. The CDC will do this through a thorough process, which could include a visit to the family's home. This will allow the CDC to make a fair assessment of the type and amount of assistance to be provided to each family. The means-test will thus enable the CDC to provide assistance which is catered to the applicant's needs.

PROGRAMMES

Q8 What programmes will the ComCare Fund be used for?

A8 The ComCare Fund is an umbrella fund for three key programme components:

- a. ComCare SelfReliance. Programmes will focus on helping the needy achieve self-reliance.
- b. ComCare Grow. Programmes will focus on the developmental needs of children from needy families, so as to help them break out of the poverty cycle.
- c. ComCare EnAble. Programmes will focus on helping the needy who require long-term assistance to integrate into the community, such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

Please visit the MCYS website: www.mcys.gov.sg for additional details.

Q9 Will there be new programmes under the ComCare Fund?

A9 Yes, there will be new programmes. These new programmes are meant to plug existing service gaps, or to improve current schemes to better address the needs of their beneficiaries. Please visit the MCYS website: www.mcys.gov.sg for the list of new programmes under the ComCare Fund.

Q10 Can other organisations apply for funding from the ComCare Fund?

A10 The ComCare Fund is meant to help needy Singaporeans. Any organisation can design pilot programmes and services that target the needy, and apply for ComCare funding. These new programmes should help plug gaps or to deliver assistance better. They should not duplicate existing services. They should also be programmes that are sustainable over time.