



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COURAGE FUND APPLICATION CRITERIA AS SINGAPORE MOVES TOWARD COVID-19 RESILIENCE**

**SINGAPORE, 14 FEBRUARY 2022** – More than 6,660 individuals who required support during the COVID-19 pandemic have benefitted from generous donations to The Courage Fund. The beneficiaries include healthcare workers who stepped up in the thick of the pandemic to lower-income households who were directly affected by COVID-19. As we move towards a COVID-19 resilient Singapore, MSF and NCSS will be making adjustments to The Courage Fund (TCF) application criteria to ensure that support continues to be channeled to those with greater needs. These adjustments will take effect on 14 February 2022.

2 The TCF was established in 2003 when Singapore was hit by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, to provide relief to SARS victims and healthcare workers. In 2020, the TCF was re-launched and the Community Chest rallied the community to donate to TCF to provide relief and support to those affected by COVID-19. As of 31 January 2022, TCF has received around \$18.5 million in donations for COVID-19 from the community, with around \$7.4 million disbursed to over 6,660 beneficiaries.

#### **Adjustments to The Courage Fund (COVID-19) Application Criteria**

3 We will adjust the Courage Fund eligibility criteria to prioritise support for healthcare workers who are at the frontline of our fight against COVID-19. We will require healthcare workers to be fully vaccinated themselves to qualify for the Courage Fund.

4 We will close the TCF schemes for other frontline workers and community volunteers who contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty, to reflect the prevailing situation where most COVID-19 patients have mild or no symptoms. All frontline social service and healthcare workers who have made contributions and exceptional personal sacrifices in the fight against COVID-19 can, via their organisations, continue to tap on The Courage Fund's ongoing

Appreciation Scheme for their welfare needs. *(Please refer to Table 1 for details on the updated application criteria)*

**Table 1: Updated Application Criteria for The Courage Fund**

<b>Schemes</b>	<b>Before 14 February 2022</b>	<b>From 14 February 2022</b>
<b>[Revised]</b> Healthcare workers who succumb to the virus after contracting it in the line of duty.	Healthcare workers, including those not involved directly in patient-facing duties.	Only fully vaccinated <sup>1</sup> healthcare workers directly involved in patient-facing COVID-19 duties would be eligible.
<b>[Closed]</b> Frontline workers and community volunteers who succumb to the virus after contracting it in the line of duty.	Frontline workers and community volunteers who has contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty and subsequently succumb to the virus.  COVID is also stated as a leading / antecedent cause or condition leading to death in death certificates.	Closed, in alignment with ongoing transition to a COVID-19 resilient society.
<b>[Closed]</b> All other members of the public who succumb to the virus.	Members of public who has succumb to the virus and COVID is stated as a leading / antecedent cause or condition leading to death in death certificates.	Closed, in alignment with ongoing transition to a COVID-19 resilient society.
<b>[Revised]</b> Education Grant for children of healthcare workers, frontline workers, and community volunteers who succumb to the virus after contracting it in the line of duty.	Children of healthcare workers, frontline workers, and community volunteers.	Only children of healthcare workers directly involved in patient-facing COVID-

<sup>1</sup>Healthcare workers who are medically ineligible for the COVID-19 vaccination are also eligible for the scheme.

		19 duties would be eligible.
<b>[Revised]</b> Healthcare workers who contract the virus in the line of duty.	Healthcare workers, including those not involved directly in patient-facing COVID-19 duties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only fully vaccinated healthcare workers directly involved in patient-facing COVID-19 duties would be eligible.</li> </ul>
<b>[Closed]</b> Frontline workers and community volunteers who contract the virus in the line of duty.	<p>Frontline workers and community who fulfilled all of the following criterions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 contraction</li> <li>Scope of work experience high level of contact with the public</li> </ul> <p>Knowingly placing oneself at <b>heightened risk</b> while engaged in providing services to suspected/positive COVID-19 patients and/or environments storing suspected/positive COVID-19 patients</p>	Closed, to reflect the prevailing situation where most COVID-19 patients have mild or no symptoms
<b>[No change]</b> Appreciation Scheme to recognise the contributions of frontline social service and healthcare workers for the exceptional personal sacrifices in the fight against COVID-19.	Eligible organisations may receive up to \$20,000 funding assistance capped at \$100 per staff to appreciate their staff in the healthcare and social service sectors.	
<b>[No change]</b> Relief for lower-income households directly affected by COVID-19	Lower-income households which have experienced income loss due to at least one household member being placed on a/an Isolation Order/Quarantine Order/Stay-Home Notice/mandatory Leave of Absence or was hospitalised due to contracting COVID-19.	

5 Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health, said “We are grateful for the generous donations to The Courage Fund, to help those in our community who are affected by the pandemic. As Singapore continues on our

way towards recovery, we are adjusting our support measures to ensure that support is channeled to members of our community who need it most. For lower-income households who may face greater challenges in getting back on their feet, and for our healthcare workers who are crucial to the recovery of our COVID-19 patients, The Courage Fund, together with our other existing support measures, will continue to provide support and ensure that no one is left behind as we progress toward a COVID-19 resilient Singapore”.

6 For more information on The Courage Fund, please visit <https://www.ncss.gov.sg/our-initiatives/the-courage-fund>. Eligible individuals who wish to apply for assistance under the TCF scheme for lower-income households directly affected by COVID-19, can apply online via <https://go.gov.sg/tcf>.

**ISSUED BY**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT,**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE,**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE COURAGE FUND LIMITED**

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## **ANNEX A**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **1. What happens to applications which have been submitted before 14 February 2022?**

- Applications submitted before 14 February 2022 would be processed per previously established parameters.

#### **2. What is the application window for TCF?**

- The application window for each TCF scheme is as follows:
  - For applicants applying for assistance under the TCF scheme for lower-income households, applications should be made within 6 months from the end of their Isolation Order/mandatory Leave of Absence/Stay-Home Notice/Quarantine Order or discharge from hospitalisation due to COVID-19 (whichever is later).
  - For applicants applying for assistance under the TCF scheme for healthcare workers who contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty, applications should be made within 6 months from the date of COVID-19 contraction.
  - There is no closing deadline for eligible organisations to apply for the Appreciation Scheme to recognise the efforts of frontline healthcare and social service workers in the fight against COVID-19.

#### **3. How long does it take for eligible individuals to receive the funds upon submitting their applications?**

- Eligible applicants of the scheme for lower-income households affected by COVID-19 can expect to receive the funds within two to three weeks upon submission of the necessary information/documents. Application for other schemes may take up to two months for us to verify details.

**4. Are there other government schemes that support individuals who need financial support, but are not eligible for assistance under TCF?**

- For lower- to middle-income employees or self-employed persons who have experienced involuntary job loss, involuntary no-pay leave or significant income loss, they can apply for temporary financial support under the COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG).
- Alternatively, lower-income individuals and families (with monthly household income of \$1,900 and below, or monthly per capita income of \$650 and below) can apply for ComCare if they require support for their basic living expenses.
- If their income exceeds these guidelines and they face financial difficulties, they may still approach the Social Service Offices (SSOs). The SSOs will assess their circumstances and provide assistance accordingly.

**5. Are recipients of ComCare, COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) or COVID-19 Recovery Grant – Temporary (CRG-T) eligible for assistance under TCF?**

- Recipients of ComCare, CRG and CRG-T are eligible to apply for additional assistance under TCF if they meet the eligibility criteria.

## ANNEX B

### MEDIA PROFILES

S/N	Name	Description	Interview preferences
1	<b>Shalahuddin Bin Madon</b>	<p><b><u>Family Background</u></b> Mr. Shalahuddin, 57 years old, lives with his wife and daughter. He is the sole breadwinner for the family. He is employed by a logistic company, Sg Brothers Entrepreneurs Pte Ltd.</p> <p>Mr. Shalahuddin was placed on Isolation Order (IO) from 29 Nov 21 to 7 Dec 21 and served his IO at Concorde Hotel. His income was affected as the company did not pay him for the duration of his IO.</p> <p><b>Assistance provided:</b> The Courage Fund \$1,000.</p>	<p><b>Mode of Interview</b> Email only</p> <p><b>Language preference:</b> English</p> <p><b>Filming/ Photography:</b> Yes</p>
2	<b>Lee Chak Kher</b>	<p><b><u>Family Background</u></b> Mr Lee, 65 years old, is a stall holder selling <i>yong tau foo</i> at Tiong Bahru Market. His wife is employed while their two sons are serving National Service. He was placed on Isolation Order from 28 Oct 21 to 6 Nov 21 which led to a drop in his income as he was unable to open his business.</p> <p><b>Assistance provided:</b> The Courage Fund \$750</p>	<p><b>Mode of Interview</b> Email only</p> <p><b>Language preference:</b> Mandarin</p> <p><b>Filming/ Photography:</b> Yes</p>