

A. PRESCHOOL SUBSIDY APPLICATION VIA LIFESG**1. Why do only families with monthly household income up to \$6,000 qualify for full subsidies under their income tier?**

The Government is committed to ensuring every child has a good start in life and can attend preschool. The Government provides all parents with basic childcare subsidies for their Singaporean children. To make the best use of our limited resources, we prioritise additional subsidies to families with greater need.

There is a need to step up efforts to encourage parents from lower-income families to enrol their children in preschool by age 3. While preschool enrolment rates are high (especially at ages 5 to 6), fewer children from lower-income families are enrolled in preschool (see FAQ 2). This is partly due to lower-income families having less resources to tackle the complex challenges that they may face.

Extending full childcare subsidies to all lower-income families based on their income tier will further reassure these parents that they can afford to send their children to preschool by age 3. This extension builds on the existing arrangements where all families under HDB's Public Rental Scheme or MSF's ComCare schemes are automatically eligible for maximum preschool subsidies.

2. What is the preschool enrolment rate of children from lower-income families?

In 2021, about 8 in 10 children aged three to four years from families with a monthly household income of up to \$6,000 were enrolled in preschool, lower than the national average of about 9 in 10.

3. How can parents apply for preschool subsidies via LifeSG?

Parents can login via Singpass to pre-fill their LifeSG application form using government verified information from My Info (where applicable). This reduces manual form filling and data inaccuracies, allowing for a smoother and faster application experience for parents.

The LifeSG application form will be submitted directly to ECDA without going through preschools. This will allow parents to submit sensitive documents and track their application status at their own convenience.

The direct application process will be rolled out in phases from December 2024, starting with anchor operator centres and centres which are digitally ready.