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MEDIA RELEASE

NTUC, Unions and Government commit \$25 million to help workers impacted by Covid-19

NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19) to provide one-off relief of up to \$300 for distressed union members who are retrenched or suffer income loss

Workers in Singapore, especially those in sectors such as aviation, tourism and point-to-point transport, are experiencing hardship due to losses in income amidst the COVID-19 outbreak. To offer some aid to distressed workers during this period, NTUC, its affiliated unions and associations as well as the Singapore Government are collectively committing \$25 million as part of the **NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)** to provide one-off relief of up to \$300 per union member.

Providing relief to distressed union members impacted by COVID-19

The **NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)** is applicable to union members who:

- a. Are retrenched with retrenchment benefits of not more than \$6,500, **or**
- b. Originally earned up to \$3,400 Gross Monthly Personal Income (GPI) for those with dependents or up to \$1,500 GPI for those without dependents; **and** are *either*:
 - i. suffering from an income drop of at least 30 per cent of their monthly salary/earnings due to COVID-19, *or*
 - ii. are self-employed persons whose incomes have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 related job or event cancellations.

Eligible union members will receive **between \$50 to \$300 worth of one-off cash relief**, as follows:

	Union members with dependents staying in the same household in Singapore	Union members without dependents staying in the same household in Singapore
Existing union members	\$300	\$100
New union members <i>*Sign-ups after 1 March 2020</i>	\$200	\$50

An estimated total of 108,000 union members are expected to benefit.

Holistic support for affected union members

A range of other existing programmes is also available to support existing union members, in providing them with additional assistance for daily expenses as well as to encourage them to utilise any downtime for skills upgrading:

- CapitaLand-U Care Resilience and Enablement (CAP+Ure) Fund
The fund provides interim support for workers impacted by a sudden loss in income, to help support their children's daily necessities and schooling needs. Each eligible child will receive a one-time disbursement of \$250 NTUC FairPrice vouchers.
- Training: LIFT-UP Pathfinder
Existing members can also apply for LIFT-UP Pathfinder, which provides customised training worth up to \$500, to members with the intent to lift them out of their current circumstances and bring about more sustained improvements to their lives.
- Training: Union Training Assistance Programme (UTAP)
UTAP is a training benefit that helps union members defray 50 per cent of unfunded course fees for up to \$250 per year.

Union members can apply for **NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)** and other assistance programmes with their respective unions or via NTUC Membership from 25 March to 30 September 2020.

NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng said, "With the recent COVID-19 developments, our workers have shared that their biggest concerns centre around sustaining their livelihoods and caring for their loved ones. This is especially so for our lower-income members as well as the sandwiched generation with multiple dependents. With the cash relief provided by the Care Fund, together with other assistance programmes that NTUC is availing to our workers, we hope to ease their burden even for a while, and continue to help them in the areas of training and employability support so that they can remain relevant and ready for when the upturn comes."

Concerted effort to uplift workers during challenging times

Through the \$25 million **NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)**, NTUC, its affiliated unions and associations together with the Singapore Government are banding together in a show of support to help our workers by providing them with temporary cash relief which will help to ease their daily expenses during this period of hardship. The Government has contributed \$10 million to the NTUC-U Care Fund. This enables NTUC to pull together a fund worth \$25 million in total, with its affiliated unions and associations co-funding 10 per cent of the remaining \$15 million.

The **NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)**, in tandem with training and employability support that the Labour Movement continues to offer to workers, will go some way in safeguarding our workers' welfare in times of need, while preparing them to remain relevant and adaptable to industry needs.

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Annex A: *Factsheet on NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)*

Annex B: *Illustrations: Tiers of assistance that members can receive from NTUC*

Annex C: *Info on other assistance programmes by NTUC*

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About National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)

The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) is a national confederation of trade unions as well as a network of professional associations and partners across all sectors in Singapore. NTUC's objectives are to help Singapore stay competitive and working people remain employable for life; to enhance the social status and wellbeing of our members and working people; and to build a strong, responsible and caring labour movement. NTUC's vision is to be an inclusive labour movement for all collars, ages and nationalities. NTUC is at the heart of the Labour Movement, which comprises 59 affiliated unions, four affiliated associations, 10 social enterprises, six related organisations as well as a growing ecosystem of U Associates and enterprise partners. For more details on NTUC, please visit our website at www.ntuc.org.sg.

About NTUC-U Care Fund

The NTUC-U Care Fund was established in 2009 to consolidate the Labour Movement's fundraising efforts to better the welfare of low-income union members and their families. Through the collective efforts of the NTUC-affiliated unions, association and social enterprises, together with management and tripartite partners, \$23.2 million was raised in 2009 to help workers affected by the economic downturn. Since its inception, the NTUC-U Care Fund has strived to make a difference in the lives of its low-income members and their families by helping them to lessen their financial burden.

Chinese Names and Terms	中文名称与词汇
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National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)	全国职工总会（职总）
NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)	职总关怀基金（冠状病毒 19）
Ng Chee Meng NTUC Secretary-General	黄志明 职总 秘书长

Annex A

Factsheet on NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19)

1) Eligibility criteria

- a) Union members including the self-employed and freelancers, whose incomes have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 can apply.
- b) Member must also meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Loss of income of at least 30% reduction OR
Retrenched with retrenchment benefits of not more than \$6,500 OR
(for Freelancers / Self-employed only) Job/Event Cancellations
 - Members WITH dependents staying in the same household in Singapore
Gross Monthly Income of not more than \$3,400
 - Members WITHOUT dependents staying in the same household in Singapore
Gross Monthly Income of not more than \$1,500
- c) Existing member: Must be a member as of 1 March 2020
New member: Joined as member after 1 March 2020

2) One-time cash assistance tiers

Criteria	Existing Members	New Members
Members with dependents staying in the same household in Singapore - GPI =<\$3,400	\$300	\$200
Members without dependents staying in the same household in Singapore - GPI =<\$1,500	\$100	\$50

3) Supporting documents

Employed	Freelancers/ Self-employed
Payslip for before and after COVID-19 outbreak, OR	Contracts or proof of job or event cancellations, OR
Retrenchment letters stating retrenchment benefits of not more than \$6,500	Quarantine Order or Stay-Home Notice

4) Application

Eligible union members can apply via their unions or NTUC Membership. More details available at www.ntuc.org.sg/ucare.

Applications will be assessed by members' respective unions and are subject to approval.

Annex B

Illustrations: Tiers of assistance that members can receive from NTUC

Illustration 1

Mr Goh is an existing union member with two children – one in primary school and the other is studying at an Institute of Technical of Education. His wife is not working. He has not previously applied for any assistance from NTUC-U Care Fund in 2019.

He was earning \$3,200 in Gross Monthly Income (GPI) but due to a reduction in overtime as his employer no longer requires him to do so, he now draws \$2,240 (30 per cent drop).

Mr Goh is eligible to apply for and receive upon successful application:

Financial support	✓ \$300	NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19) - cash relief	Total assistance: \$1,550 worth of support
	✓ \$250 X 2	CAP+Ure Fund via NTUC FairPrice vouchers	
Training support	✓ \$500	LIFT-UP Pathfinder - customised training support	
	✓ \$250	UTAP - training benefit	

Illustration 2

Ms Tan just joined the union on 2 Mar 2020. She is single and living alone. Her income used to be \$1,500 but was put on shorter work week due to COVID-19. Her income is now \$900 (40 per cent less).

Ms Tan is eligible to apply for and receive upon successful application:

Financial support	✓ \$50	NTUC Care Fund (COVID-19) - cash relief	Total assistance: \$800 worth of support
Training support	✓ \$500	LIFT-UP Pathfinder - customised training support	
	✓ \$250	UTAP - training benefit	

Annex C

Info on other assistance programmes by NTUC

a. CapitaLand-U Care Resilience and Enablement (CAP+Ure) Fund

In partnership with CapitaLand's philanthropic arm, CapitaLand Hope Foundation and a 1:4 matching support from unions, CAP+Ure Fund targets to reach out to union members with children who are impacted by sudden loss of income. To provide interim financial support for the children's daily necessities and schooling needs, each eligible child will receive a one-time disbursement of \$250 worth of NTUC FairPrice vouchers, with \$200 and \$50 contributed by CapitaLand Hope Foundation and the unions respectively.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Monthly Gross Household Income (GHI) of \$5,800 and below or Per Capita Income (PCI) of \$1,450 and below if GHI exceeds \$5,800.
- Children aged 21 years and below studying at eligible educational institutions:
 - Government / Government-aided / Independent schools (primary and secondary) under the Ministry of Education;
 - Junior colleges; Institute of Technical Education; Millennia Institute;
 - Special education schools
- 6 months of continuous paid-up union membership. Unions/Associations can apply for the assistance programme on behalf of their members who require the assistance and meet the criteria.

b. LIFT-UP Pathfinder

LIFT-UP is an initiative by NTUC-U Care Fund which aims to help union members enhance their social mobility. With the support of the President's Challenge, the LIFT-UP Pathfinder programme, an extension of the LIFT-UP initiative, was started in 2018. The programme aims to help vulnerable families to better prepare themselves in their journey to upgrade their skills, plan their careers and ultimately, effect a more sustainable change as a family. Apart from helping the families navigate their current situations and learn how to reach their ideal future state through proper career planning and goal-setting, the families are also each matched with an NTUC U Care ambassador who will hand-hold and encourage them throughout the programme.

c. Union Training Assistance Programme

Union Training Assistance Programme (UTAP) is a training benefit for NTUC members to defray their cost of training. This benefit is to encourage more union members to go for skills upgrading.

NTUC members enjoy 50% unfunded course fee support for up to \$250 each year when they sign up for courses supported under UTAP. More details at <http://bit.ly/UTAP2020>.