

ANNEX

Expanded EASE Programme

EASE was launched in July 2012 to enhance the safety and comfort of seniors living in HDB flats. Under EASE, home owners can choose from a range of elderly-friendly fittings to help their elderly family members move around in their flats more easily. They have the flexibility to choose any combination of the improvements, and pay only for the improvements chosen.

2 For the convenience of our residents, EASE is offered in conjunction with the Home Improvement Programme (HIP). This allows works for both programmes to be carried out at the same time. Elderly and vulnerable residents who need EASE earlier, or whose blocks do not qualify for HIP, can apply directly to HDB for EASE.

3 Since 1 August 2014, HDB has expanded the EASE programme to benefit more residents:

- **Age Criterion for direct application lowered** for Singapore Citizen households with an elderly family member. The family member must be:
 - 65 years old and above (*lowered from 70 years old*); or
 - between 60 and 64 years old (*lowered from between 65 and 69 years old*) and requires assistance for at least one of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL).
- **Improvement Items Extended to the Second Toilet**
For households with two toilets, the provision of slip-resistant treatment to floor tiles and grab bars will be extended to the second toilet.

4 From 5 December 2018, the EASE programme will be enhanced to include ramp solutions for flats with multi-step entrances. The improvement items offered under EASE will include:

- a) Slip-resistant treatment for existing floor tiles of up to two bathrooms/toilets;
- b) Installation of 8 or 10 grab bars for first bathroom/toilet and/or within the flat;
- c) Installation of 6 grab bars for second bathroom/toilet; and
- d)(i) Up to five single-step ramps to negotiate one-level difference in the flat and/or at single-step main entrance, where technically feasible, or
- d)(ii) Up to four single-step ramps to negotiate one-level difference in the flat and one portable or customised ramp at multi-step main entrance, where technically feasible. **[new]**

Subsidies from the Government

5 EASE is highly subsidized. The Government will pay up to 95% of the cost of the improvement items, depending on the flat type. Flat owners can choose any combination of the improvements that best meets their needs, and pay only for what they have selected.

6 With the inclusion of the portable/customised ramps under the EASE programme, the maximum amount payable by flat owners will range from \$147.00 (for 3-room and smaller flats) to \$367.50 (for executive flats) for the full package with a **portable ramp**, and from \$192.00 (for 3-room flat) to \$480.00 (for executive flats) for the full package with a **customised ramp**.

Flat Type	1/2/3-Room Flat (5%)	4-Room Flat (7.5%)	5-Room Flat (10%)	Executive (12.5%)
Flat Owner's Share (Full EASE Package with 5 Single-Step Ramps) <i>[current]</i>	\$125.00	\$187.50	\$250.00	\$312.50
Flat Owner's Share (Full EASE Package with 4 single-step ramps and 1 Portable Ramp) Total cost of full package is up to \$2,940	\$147.00	\$220.50	\$294.00	\$367.50
Flat Owner's Share (Full EASE Package with 4 single-step ramps and 1 Customised Ramp) Total cost of full package is up to \$3,840	\$192.00	\$288.00	\$384.00	\$480.00

** Amount is subject to prevailing GST. It is payable in cash for EASE (Direct Application).*

Households which have benefited from EASE

7 Since the introduction of EASE in July 2012, close to 173,500 households have applied for EASE as at end Oct 2018. About 110,500 households have opted for EASE together with HIP, while about 63,000 households have applied for EASE under the Direct Application.

Wheelchair Lifter (to be offered under separate pilot)

8 Where the ramp solutions are not feasible, a wheelchair lifter will be offered as an option, separate from the EASE programme. The government will subsidise half of the cost (\$1,960) of the wheelchair lifter, while the flat owner will pay the remaining 50% (\$1,960). There is also an annual servicing fee (\$80*), payable by the flat owner from the second year onwards, following a one year defects liability period.

**Amount is subject to change*

Citizenship of Household	Amount Payable by flat owners	Subsidy by Government (for all HDB flat types)
Singapore Citizen (SC)	\$1,960	50%
Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR)	\$3,920	0%

9 Where there are flat owners who have difficulty paying for their share of the installation costs, HDB will help to refer them to the Grassroots Organisations (GROs) or Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) for assistance, with the flat owners' consent. The degree of financial assistance rendered will be assessed by these agencies.

Application Procedures

10 Eligible flat owners who wish to apply directly for EASE can do so via

- e-Service at www.hdb.gov.sg/EASE-Application-eservice, or
- e- application at Mobile@HDB

11 For more information on EASE (Direct Application), the public may visit the HDB InfoWEB or call our Branch Service Line at 1800-225-5432 from 8am to 5pm on weekdays (excluding public holidays).