

Media Factsheet

EMBARGOED TILL MCI COS 2020

SUPPORTING SINGAPORE'S LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

As Singapore journeys towards becoming an advanced Digital Economy, it is important that everyone can lead a more engaged and connected lifestyle with technology. To ensure that vulnerable segments of society are not excluded from the benefits of digital connectivity, the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) has introduced initiatives such as the NEU PC Plus and Home Access programmes to bridge the digital access gap. As at Jan 2020, the NEU PC Plus and Home Access programmes have benefitted more than 75,000 low-income households since Nov 1999.

IMDA's effort in equipping low-income households with computer ownership started in end 1999. The programme was enhanced several rounds to address today's dynamic school curriculum, keep the scheme relevant as well as to benefit more low-income households with full-time students and people with disabilities (PWDs). Successful applicants will be provided with a subsidised PC bundled with 3 years of free broadband subscription. More than 61,000 low-income households have benefited from the computer ownership programme. For more details of NEU PC Plus programme, please refer to www.imda.gov.sg/neupc.

The Home Access programme, launched in September 2014, provides subsidised Internet access to low-income households (without school-going children¹). The programme was expanded in 2017 to offer beneficiaries staying in HDB flats with two years of fibre broadband access, and an option to take up a tablet. More than 14,000 low-income households have benefited from the Home Access 1.0 and 2.0 programmes.

Enhancing the Home Access programme

Effective April 2020, the Home Access (HA 3.0) programme will include enhancements from HA 2.0. Under the new enhanced programme, eligible households will enjoy an increase in minimum broadband speed from 300Mbps to 500Mbps, at no additional cost. In addition, HA 3.0 will include an option of a broadband and smartphone bundle² not previously offered under HA 2.0. To make it easier for eligible households to benefit from the programme, IMDA will also roll out an online application system this year³.

¹ Full-time students studying in a Government or Government-Aided School, Junior College, Centralised Institute, Independent School, Specialised Independent School, Specialised School, Institute of Technical Education, Polytechnic or MOE-funded Special Education School

² Bundled plans with smartphone or tablet are available to households without school-going children only

³ The target launch date of the online application system is in Q3 CY2020.

The qualifying criteria of HA 3.0 with effect from April 2020 are as follows:

Criteria	
Income	Total Monthly Gross Household Income <= \$1,900; <i>or</i> Per Capita Income <= \$650
Citizenship	With at least one family member staying at the same residential address ⁴ who is a Singapore Citizen
Dwelling Type	Stays in HDB flat
Others	Neither an existing Home Access beneficiary NOR an existing NEU PC Plus beneficiary with broadband

Eligible households can be qualified for Home Access via two methods:

- a) Auto-include - Households with at least one member who is an existing beneficiary of selected government assistance schemes⁵ will be pre-qualified and invited to submit the acceptance form to activate their HA bundle plan.
- b) Direct application - Other households can submit the application form and necessary supporting documents through appointed Processing Agencies⁶. Alternatively, applicants can apply online³.

Through IMDA subsidies, the co-payment rates for applications continue to be affordable.

Assistance Package			Auto Inclusion	Tier A: Reside in HDB 1-3 room flat	Tier B: Reside in HDB 4 room and above flat
			Monthly subscription including GST		
Fibre broadband	M1 Limited	500Mbps	\$6.00	\$9.00	\$17.30
	MyRepublic Ltd	1Gbps	\$13.99	\$16.99	\$25.29

⁴ Related members staying at the same address, based on NRIC, and share food arrangement

⁵ Currently, the government assistance schemes selected are the MSF's ComCare Long Term Assistance Scheme and MSF ComCare Short-to-Medium Term Assistance (SMTA) with at least 12 months of continuous assistance

⁶ The Processing Agencies are the Association of Muslim Professionals, Chinese Development Assistance Council, Singapore Indian Development Association and Yayasan MENDAKI

Bundled Plans by M1 Limited <i>(Note: Options are available for families without full-time students¹ only)</i>				
500Mbps Fibre broadband bundled with tablet	Lenovo Tablet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 inch, android • 2GB RAM, 32GB storage 	\$8.00	\$15.00	\$22.00
500Mbps Fibre broadband bundled with smartphone	OPPO/ Vivo Smartphone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 inch, android • 4GB RAM, 64GB storage 	\$10.75	\$17.75	\$24.75

- END -

For media clarifications, please contact:

Jasmine Xu (Ms)

Assistant Manager, Communications & Marketing, IMDA

DID: (65) 6202 4425

Email: jasmine_xu@imda.gov.sg

