

July 2016

Annex 4

FACT SHEET

NEU PC PLUS

The Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore's (IDA) effort in equipping needy households with computer ownership started in 1999. As of June 2016, our effort in providing assistance towards computer ownership has benefited more than 47,000 low-income households.

To address today's dynamic school curriculum, IDA enhanced the programme for a fifth time in 2016, to keep the scheme relevant and also to benefit more low-income households with school-going children, as well as persons with disabilities (PWDs). Please refer to [Annex 4-A](#) for details of enhanced criteria. The enhanced NEU PC Plus Programme includes the provision of new computers bundled with three years of free broadband access, at an affordable price. Since the launch of the programme in November 2006, more than 27,000 low-income households with school-going children or PWDs have benefitted from the programme.

A programme review was conducted in 2016 to ensure that the schemes remains relevant and can continue to assist the students from low-income households. As part of the review, enhancements will be made to allow more low-income households to benefit from the programme.

The enhancements are as follows:

- i. The programme income cap will be raised from \$3,000 to \$3,400 for gross monthly household income and per capita income (PCI) from \$800 to \$900 to assist more low income households. The PCI cap will also be raised from \$875 to \$1,125 for household with a PWD. Applicants from lower income households whose PCI does not exceed \$700 will receive higher subsidy, a raise from the previous PCI cap of \$600.
- ii. The income cap for iNSPIRE fund will also be raised from \$2,300 to \$2,500 for gross monthly household income and PCI from \$600 to \$700.
- iii. Recipients of MOE-funded Special Education Financial Assistance Scheme (SPED FAS) will automatically qualify for higher subsidy.

These enhancements will be made effective on 1st September 2016.

The NEU PC Plus Programme, which aligns to IDA's Smart Nation vision, is administered through 2 modes: IDA-led and Grant to schools. Under the IDA-led mode, the schemes are managed by appointed Lead Agencies (LAs) while under the Grant mode, the schools that are offered the grant will process, procure and deploy specific infocomm devices, software or broadband services to their students from low-income families, so as to meet the schools' and students' learning objectives and needs.

July 2016

The two schemes under the NEU PC Plus Programme are:

1. **PC-Bundle Scheme** – This scheme is applicable to students and PWDs whose gross monthly household income does not exceed \$3,400 or per capita income does not exceed \$900. The scheme offers new computer (desktop or laptop) bundled with 3-year of free broadband access and software at an affordable price through a two-tier subsidy. The following table summarises details of this funding scheme:

		Current Criteria			New Criteria (Effective from 1 September 2016)		
Citizenship	Income	Total Monthly Household Income ≤ \$3,000 or Per Capital Monthly Income (PCI) ≤ \$800 (\$875 if there is a disabled member) OR recipient of MOE FAS			Total Monthly Household Income ≤ \$3,400 or Per Capital Monthly Income (PCI) ≤ \$900 (\$1,125 if there is a disabled member) OR recipient of MOE-FAS or SPED FAS		
		MOE- FAS	PCI ≤ \$600	PCI > \$600	MOE-FAS or SPED-FAS	PCI ≤ \$700	PCI > \$700
	Singapore Citizen	Up to 75%	Up to 75%	Up to 50%	Up to 75%	Up to 75%	Up to 50%
	Permanent Resident	NA	Up to 50%	Up to 50%	NA	Up to 50%	Up to 50%

July 2016

2. **iNSPIRE Fund Scheme** – This scheme, introduced in November 2007, helps NEU PC Plus applicants who cannot afford the co-payment to earn their PC by doing some form of community service. As of June 2016, the iNSPIRE fund has benefitted more than 2,100 students.

The following table summarises details of the iNSPIRE Fund Scheme:

Requirements	Current Criteria	New Criteria (Effective from 1 September 2016)
Total monthly household income, or Per capita monthly income	≤ \$2,300 ≤ \$600	≤ \$2,500 ≤ \$700
No of hours of community service	a. aged below 15 years old to render 3 or 6 hours of community service for desktop or laptop respectively b. aged 15 years old and above to render 6 or 12 hours of community service for desktop or laptop respectively	No change

Support from the Community and Industry

Lead Agencies (LAs) are appointed by IDA to support the programme in application processing. The LAs are the Association of Muslim Professionals, Central Sikh Gurdwara Board, Chinese Development Assistance Council, Institute of Technical Education, Singapore Indian Development Association, SPD, The Eurasian Association and Yayasan MENDAKI.

July 2016

ANNEX 4-A

NEU PC PLUS PROGRAMME POLICIES (EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2016)

Qualifying Criteria for Applicants

Applicant Type	Criteria	PC-Bundle Scheme (through IDA-Led Mode)
School-going child	Schooling Status	A full-time student in a Government/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.
	Age	25 years and below
Person With Permanent Disabilities (PWD)	Disability Status	Person with Permanent Disability
For School-going child & PWD	Household Income or Per Capita Income (PCI)	Monthly Household Income \leq \$3,400 or PCI \leq \$900 (or \leq \$1,125 if there is a permanently disabled family member)
		<u>For iNSPIRE Fund (only applicable to full time students)</u> Monthly Household Income \leq \$2,500 or PCI \leq \$700
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past beneficiary of the programme can reapply after 3 years from the last deployment.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Household is entitled for one PC regardless of the number of school-going children. • Unless there is a school-going child who is enrolled to 1-to-1 computing programme, then he or she is eligible to apply for a PC-Bundle regardless of the fact that the household had benefitted from the programme within the qualified period.

July 2016

Level of Subsidy for School-Going Child

Scheme	PC-Bundle Scheme (through IDA-Led Mode)		INSPIRE Fund
	Tier 1	Tier 1	
Criteria	Monthly Household Income ≤ \$3,400		Monthly Household Income ≤ \$2,500 or PCI ≤ \$700
	PCI ≤ \$700 OR MOE-FAS / SPED-FAS recipient	PCI > \$700	
Singapore Citizen	Up to 75% subsidy	Up to 50% subsidy	Up to 100% subsidy
Permanent Resident	Up to 50% subsidy		

Level of Subsidy for PWD

Scheme	PC-Bundle Scheme (through IDA-Led Mode)
Criteria	Monthly Household Income \leq \$3,400 or PCI \leq \$1,125
Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident	Up to 50% subsidy

July 2016

Community service hours required for iNSPIRE Fund Scheme:

iNSPIRE Fund Scheme	Required Hours	
<i>Community Service hours</i>	<i>Desktop</i>	<i>Laptop</i>
Applicants age below 15 years	3 hours	6 hours
Applicants age 15 years & above	6 hours	12 hours ¹

For more information, please visit www.ida.gov.sg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
IDA Communication Contact

Candy Pok (Ms)
Assistant Manager, Corporate & Marketing Communications Division
Tel: +65 6211 1706
Fax: +65 6211 2227
Email: candy_pok@ida.gov.sg

¹ It is observed that the proposed 12 hours can be achieved by participating in two full day events or three to four half-day events.