



Newsletter

Date : 9 May 2020

Ref : MA202005-001E

Subject : **Employment Supporting Scheme (ESS)**

The Government of HKSAR just revealed the application details of ESS : (extract from the booklet of ESS)

Eligibility

All employers who have been participating in MPF schemes (including Master Trust Schemes and Industry Schemes) will be eligible to apply for wage subsidies :

- ⇒ regular employees under the Master Trust Schemes and Industry Schemes for whom MPF mandatory contributions have been made by their employers;
- ⇒ employees aged 65 or above under the Master Trust Schemes and Industry Schemes.
- ⇒ In order to be eligible for the first tranche, the MPF accounts of employers and employees should have been set up on or before 31 March 2020 (i.e. cannot be backdated to that date or any earlier dates). In other words, employers and employees with MPF accounts set up on or after 1 April 2020 will not be eligible.

Wage Subsidies and Calculation

The Government will provide wage subsidies to eligible employers for 6 months. Subsidies will be disbursed in two tranches. The first tranche of subsidies will cover the period from June to August 2020, while the second tranche will cover the period from September to November 2020.

Employers applying for the first tranche of subsidies under ESS can nominate any one month between December 2019 and March 2020 as the “specified month”. The amount of wage subsidies will be calculated on the basis of the number of employees and their respective wages in the “specified month”.

● **Regular employees" aged between 18 and 64**

The amount of wage subsidies will be calculated based on 50% of the actual wages paid to each “regular employee” aged 18-64 in the “specified month”, with a wage cap at \$18,000 per month. The maximum wage subsidy per employee is \$9,000 per month.

● **Employees aged 65 or above**

If employers have provided information on the basic salaries of employees aged 65 or above when making MPF voluntary contributions for them, the amount of wage subsidies will be calculated based on 50% of the basic salaries actually paid to the relevant employees in the “specified month”, with a wage cap at \$18,000 per month per employee. The maximum wage subsidy per employee is \$9,000 per month.

If employers have not provided information on the basic salaries of individual employees when making MPF voluntary contributions for them, the amount of wage subsidies will be calculated by multiplying the amount of employers’ voluntary contribution for the relevant employees in the “specified month” by 10 times, with a cap at \$9,000 per month per employee.

Application Period

Online applications for the first tranche of subsidies will open from 25 May to 14 June 2020. (will receive the wage subsidy in three to four weeks after application,)

The second tranche of subsidies will be disbursed in September 2020. The Government will announce the application details in due course.

Information required

- Business Registration Number or other registration numbers (for example, company registration number, registration number under the Societies Ordinance or Education Ordinance, non-governmental organization code assigned by the Social Welfare Department, etc.) (The Name of employer must be the same as the name of business/corporation stated in the Business Registration Certificates or other registration certificates)
- Name of the MPF Trustee (the name of employer must be the same as the name shown on the records of the MPF Trustee)
- ◆ Name of the MPF Scheme (should include all MPF schemes participated during the period 1 December 2019 to 31 March 2020) and Scheme Registration / Participation Number

Documents to be uploaded

The bank account number of the employer and a scanned copy of the bank statement (the name of Applicant must be the same as the name of holder of the bank account)

Please use the designated form to fill in the information of eligible employees (i.e. employees whose wages are not fully funded by the Government), including the wage of each employee in the “specified month”. The designated form can be downloaded from the online application form. www.ess.gov.hk

If you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact the government.

Telephone hotline: 1836-122

Email: enquiry@employmentsupport.hk