

Disabled Persons Scheme

General Questions

1. What is the Disabled Persons Scheme?

The Disabled Persons Scheme is a means-tested scheme that supports Singapore Citizens with permanent physical disabilities who are unable to use public transport (i.e. bus and/or MRT) and require a vehicle to earn a living. Eligible drivers are exempted from paying the premium for the Certificate of Entitlement (COE) and the Additional Registration Fee (ARF) when they purchase a vehicle.

2. How does the Disabled Persons Scheme differ from the Taxi Subsidy Scheme?

While both are financial schemes that support Persons with Disabilities for employment, key differences include:

	Disabled Persons Scheme	Taxi Subsidy Scheme																							
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore citizens only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore citizens and permanent residents 																							
Purpose of Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment School Employment-related training supported by SG Enable 																							
Disability Type/Nature	Applicant must be certified by a medical practitioner to be permanently physically disabled and incapable of taking public transport (i.e. bus and/or MRT) for the purpose of work	Applicant must be certified by a medical practitioner to have any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Disability Intellectual Disability Visual Impairment Hearing Impairment Autism Spectrum Disorder and be unable to take public transport due to their disability for the purpose of school, work or employment-related training supported by SG Enable																							
Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiver of COE and Additional Registration Fee (ARF) for a Category A car. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reimbursement for taxi travel 																							
Income Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant's household income has to be in the 30th income percentile or below where household income does not exceed \$6,500 for a 4-member household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiered subsidy based on National Means Testing <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Monthly Per Capita Income</th> <th colspan="2">TSS</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Citizen</th> <th>Permanent resident</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$0 to \$700</td> <td>80%</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$701 to \$1,100</td> <td>75%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,101 to \$1,600</td> <td>60%</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,601 to \$1,800</td> <td>50%</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$1,801 to \$2,600</td> <td>30%</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2,601 and above</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Monthly Per Capita Income	TSS		Citizen	Permanent resident	\$0 to \$700	80%	55%	\$701 to \$1,100	75%	50%	\$1,101 to \$1,600	60%	40%	\$1,601 to \$1,800	50%	30%	\$1,801 to \$2,600	30%	15%	\$2,601 and above	0%	0%
Monthly Per Capita Income	TSS																								
	Citizen	Permanent resident																							
\$0 to \$700	80%	55%																							
\$701 to \$1,100	75%	50%																							
\$1,101 to \$1,600	60%	40%																							
\$1,601 to \$1,800	50%	30%																							
\$1,801 to \$2,600	30%	15%																							
\$2,601 and above	0%	0%																							

3. I am eligible for both Disabled Persons Scheme and Taxi Subsidy Scheme, how should I decide my travelling option?

Applicants eligible for both Disabled Persons Scheme and Taxi Subsidy Scheme are strongly encouraged to consider their travel needs and financial circumstances before deciding on the more suitable travel option between the two.

4. Can I qualify for more than one transport assistance scheme?

Yes, you may qualify for more than one transport assistance scheme, if you meet the eligibility criteria of the respective schemes.

However, while applicants who are existing beneficiaries of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme may still apply for the Disabled Persons Scheme, the applicant will have to withdraw from the Taxi Subsidy Scheme upon the approval for the Disabled Persons Scheme. The applicant will be given sufficient time to purchase and register the new vehicle before the assistance from the Taxi Subsidy Scheme is ceased.

Eligibility Criteria

1. What are the eligibility criteria for the Disabled Persons Scheme?

Applicants must:

- Be a Singapore citizen
- Be medically certified by doctors from the Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre as permanently disabled and incapable of taking public transport (i.e. bus and/or MRT), but fit to drive
- Be gainfully employed and need a vehicle to earn a living
- Possess a valid Class 3 driving licence
- Be in the 30th income percentile or below where household income does not exceed \$6,500 for a 4-member household

2. Whose income will be used in the computation of the household income for the Disabled Persons Scheme?

The household income used in the computation of the Disabled Persons Scheme is the combined household income of the applicant, his/her spouse, children, parents and parents-in-law if they stay in the same residential address, as reflected in their NRIC.

3. Can persons with temporary disabilities, or where the nature of the disability is uncertain, qualify for the Disabled Persons Scheme?

No, applicants must be medically certified by doctors from the Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre as permanently disabled and incapable of travelling by bus and/or MRT but fit to drive.

4. I already own a vehicle (i.e. not registered under the Disabled Persons Scheme) but I would like to purchase a new vehicle with waiver for the Additional Registration Fee (ARF) and Certificate of Entitlement (COE) under the Disabled Persons Scheme. Is this possible?

Prior to registering a vehicle under the Disabled Persons Scheme, the applicant must de-register or transfer to another party any existing vehicle(s) under his/her ownership. The applicant is also not allowed to register or transfer any other vehicle(s) into his/her ownership during the period when he/she has a vehicle registered under the Disabled Persons Scheme.

5. Can my caregiver apply for the Disabled Persons Scheme to drive me to work?

The Disabled Persons Scheme is intended to support persons with disabilities in employment for independent living.

There are other alternatives for travel for persons with permanent disabilities who are medically certified to be unable to take public transport. These individuals can tap on the Taxi Subsidy Scheme which provides means-tested taxi subsidies to defray the cost of commute to school, work or

employment-related training supported by SG Enable. The scheme also supports booking of taxis for ease of pick-up from the homes of persons with disabilities.

6. I am a caregiver of a person with disability who requires frequent trips to medical and rehabilitation centres. Can I apply for waiver for the Additional Registration Fee (ARF) and Certificate of Entitlement (COE) under the Disabled Persons Scheme?

Persons with disabilities who are attending school or centre-based programmes may wish to consider applying for the Voluntary Welfare Organisation Transport Subsidy, which provides up to 80% subsidy for transport fees for persons attending the following programmes: Early intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC), Day Activity Centres, Sheltered Workshops or Special Education (SPED) schools where transport services are provided by the Social Service Agencies.

The Disabled Persons Scheme is intended to support persons with disabilities in employment for independent living.

7. Can I apply for the Disabled Persons Scheme for other purposes such as school?

The Disabled Persons Scheme is intended to support persons with disabilities in employment for independent living.

Students with special needs attending special schools (SPED) can tap on the Voluntary Welfare Organisation Transport Subsidy, a means-tested scheme that provides up to 80% subsidy to defray the cost of transport. Both wheelchair users and ambulant persons can apply for the subsidy.

There are other alternatives for travel for persons with permanent disabilities who are medically certified to be unable to take public transport. These individuals can tap on the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, which provides means-tested taxi subsidies to defray the cost of commute to school, work or employment-related training supported by SG Enable. The scheme also supports booking of taxis for ease of pick-up from the homes of persons with disabilities.

8. Can I apply for the Disabled Persons Scheme to get a car for the purpose of becoming a private-hire car driver (e.g. Uber, Grab driver)?

Under the current Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Registration and Licensing) Rules, private-hire cars must pay for Certificate of Entitlement (COE) and Additional Registration Fee (ARF) to operate private-hire transport service. As the Disabled Persons Scheme (DPS) provides waivers for COE and ARF, such cars will not be able to be registered to carry out private-hire transport services (e.g. Grab or Uber)

9. My last application/appeal for the Disabled Persons Scheme was rejected and I was advised to consider the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. I plan to submit an appeal for my application for the Disabled Persons Scheme but would also like to try for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. Am I allowed to do so?

Applicants who wish to apply/ appeal for the Disabled Persons Scheme may also apply for the Taxi Subsidy Scheme concurrently. This is to ensure that the applicant is receiving interim assistance while they await the outcome of their application for the Disabled Persons Scheme. However, upon approval for the Disabled Persons Scheme and prior to the utilisation, the applicant will have to withdraw from the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. The applicant will be given sufficient time to purchase and register the new vehicle before the assistance from the Taxi Subsidy Scheme is ceased.

However, an applicant should submit an appeal for the Disabled Persons Scheme only if there is a change in the circumstances of his/her application (e.g. if the eligibility criteria that was not previously met has changed).

Application Process

1. Where can I go for the medical assessment?

Please approach Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre for the medical assessment. The details of the Rehabilitation Centre are as follows:

Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre @ Ang Mo Kio - Thye Hua Kwan Hospital
17 Ang Mo Kio Ave 9
Singapore 569766
Tel: 6450 6181

For information on operation hours and medical examination charges, please contact Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre at Tel: 6450 6181. Doctor consultation is strictly by appointment only.

2. Why must applicants undergo medical assessment at the Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre when they have been assessed to be persons with disabilities previously?

The medical assessment is necessary to verify that the person is not able to take public transport (i.e. bus and/or MRT) but is able to drive a vehicle.

3. Can I engage other medical professionals to provide the medical assessment instead of undergoing medical assessment at the Tan Tock Seng Rehabilitation Centre?

Currently, the medical assessment has to be done by the medical professionals at the designated medical centre of TTSH.

4. Will I be reimbursed for the cost of the medical assessment as well as any other incidental expenses incurred for my DPS application?

No. Applicants have to pay for the full costs of the medical assessment as well as any other expenses incurred during the course of DPS application.

5. How long does it take after submitting an application, for applicants to receive a reply from SG Enable regarding the status of their application?

Upon receipt of complete documentation (i.e. completed application form and no missing supporting documents), SG Enable will send out an acknowledgement letter to the applicant within 3 working days.

For incomplete submissions, SG Enable will send out a letter to the applicant within 3 working days requesting for the missing supporting documents. The processing can be proceeded only upon receipt of all the required documents.

The time frame for processing depends on the complexity of each case. The grounds, supporting documents and merits are carefully examined and considered. Each application is assessed based on a case-by-case basis, thus we are unable to provide a definite time frame.

Others

1. What alternative transport assistance schemes are available for persons with disabilities who are unable to use Public Transport?

The Taxi Subsidy Scheme provides means-tested subsidies for taxi fares to persons with physical disabilities for the purpose of commuting to work, school or employment-related training supported by SG Enable.

The Voluntary Welfare Organisation Transport Subsidy scheme provides means-tested subsidies to defray transport costs for persons with disabilities on transport services provided by

Social Service Agencies and attending any of the following services:

- Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC)
- Day Activity Centres
- Sheltered Workshops
- Special Education (SPED) Schools

For those who wish to own their own vehicle, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) exempts the physically disabled from financing restrictions on motor vehicle loans.

2. Is there a guideline on the type of vehicle (i.e. specifications) allowed to be registered under the Disabled Persons Scheme?

Applicants are only allowed to register a car that meets the following specifications:

- Engine Capacity not more than 1,600cc; and
- Maximum Power Output not more than 97kW (130bhp); and
- Open Market Value (OMV) not more than \$20,000

If a car needs to be modified to suit the applicant's disability, an approval letter from the Land Transport Authority (LTA) must first be obtained. Thereafter, the applicant is required to produce the modified car for inspection at any of the authorised inspection centres. The modified car must pass the inspection before it can be registered.

For advice on modification to be made to your car, please contact LTA Vehicle Division at Tel: 6553 5794.

3. How long is the Certificate of Entitlement (COE) validity for vehicles registered under the Disabled Persons Scheme?

There is no expiry for COE certificates for vehicles registered under the DPS scheme.

4. If my application is approved, can I purchase a second hand car?

The waiver of COE and ARF is applicable only to the purchase of a new car. The COE and ARF for a second-hand car would already have been paid at the point when the car was registered. An applicant for the Disabled Persons Scheme cannot purchase a second-hand car as the COE and ARF cannot be refunded to him/her.

5. As a new applicant for the Disabled Persons Scheme, can I take over a second-hand car that is currently registered under the Disabled Persons Scheme?

New applicants who wish to take over an existing car with COE and ARF waivers must first have his/her application for the Disabled Persons Scheme approved.

Existing car owners on the Disabled Persons Scheme who wish to transfer their car to another applicant for the Disabled Persons Scheme must write in to the Land Transport Authority (LTA) for an approval. Once the request is approved, LTA will correspond with the existing car owner and the potential buyer.