

ANNEX A: FACTSHEET ON BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY FUND

I Background

The success of our nation was built on care and contribution by our forefathers, who worked together regardless of race, language or religion to make a better life for themselves and their children. The SG Cares movement aims to build on this culture of kindness by inviting everyone to put values into action through active volunteerism, ground-up efforts and everyday acts of care.

2 As we mark the Singapore Bicentennial in 2019, we aim to reaffirm our commitment to building a caring home together. The \$200M **Bicentennial Community Fund** (BCF) will encourage more Singaporeans to embrace the spirit of giving back, and be an opportunity for our Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) to reach out to more donors, and widen their impact on our community.

II Objective

3 The BCF will provide matching for cash donations which qualify for tax deduction (received via all modes of payment ¹, e.g. e-payment, cash, cheque, etc.) garnered by IPCs from 1 Apr 2019 to 31 Mar 2020. This will help multiply the contributions and efforts of donors and IPCs for the Bicentennial year.

III Grant Format

4 To ensure a good distribution of support across IPCs, the Fund will provide dollar-for-dollar matching, up to \$400,000 per IPC², on the total donation amount received by the IPC from 1 Apr 2019 to 31 Mar 2020 (qualifying period).

	IPCs that receive donations ≤ \$400,000* during the qualifying period	IPCs that receive donations > \$400,000 during the qualifying period
Government-matched amount	Dollar-for-dollar, up to \$400,000	\$400,000

* Donations include all private cash donations. Grants from government agencies, including Tote Board, which are not donations will not qualify for matching.

IV Fund Administration

5 The BCF will be administered by the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) with support from MCCY. Queries regarding the BCF can be directed to BCF@nvpc.org.sg. More details about the application process will be shared by NVPC in the first week of April, and will be made available on www.mccy.gov.sg/bcf³.

¹ Donations-in-kind and sponsorship are not supported.

² Community Chest (ComChest) as a fundraising arm of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), supporting about 80 social service organisations, will not be subject to the \$400,000 per IPC cap. Instead, 20% of the total donation (net of the donation that is already matched by existing grants) received by ComChest in the qualifying period, will be matched by the BCF.

³ Webpage will be accessible from 1 Apr 2019, 0900hrs.

ANNEX B: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON BCF

a Why is the BCF targeted at IPCs?

IPCs⁴ are dedicated to serving the needs of the community in Singapore as a whole and not confined to sectoral interests or groups of persons based on race, belief or religion.

IPCs are also held to a higher standard of regulatory compliance and governance by the Commissioner of Charities. This will give donors the assurance that their donations are well administered.

b Why is there a cap for the BCF?

It is necessary to set a cap to ensure a fair distribution of funds to all IPCs. The current cap is derived from observing past donations raised by IPCs, and taking into consideration the existing matching grants for IPCs.

The cap will give added impetus for small IPCs to fundraise actively, knowing that their received donations will be matched dollar-to-dollar, and to engage its donors and volunteers on relational and sustained giving.

c If I am a new IPC, can I qualify for BCF?

Yes. Donations garnered by a registered IPC will be eligible for matching throughout the qualifying period. If the organisation does not have an active IPC status for the entire period, matching will only be provided for donations garnered during the period where the organisation had an active IPC status. For example, if the IPC had an active IPC status till 31 Dec 2019, but is no longer an IPC with effect from 1 Jan 2020, only donations collected between 1 Apr 2019 and 31 Dec 2019 will qualify for matching.

d How will the BCF benefit donors?

Donations to IPCs will help them to qualify for the BCF, and amplify the impact on the community that they serve. Donors will also continue to enjoy a 250% tax deduction for qualifying donations made to IPCs.

⁴ To apply for IPC status, the organisation has to be a registered charity or an exempt charity or other charity that is not required to be registered by virtue of section 5(4) of the Charities Act. The IPC's activities must be beneficial to the community in Singapore as a whole and are not confined to sectional interests or groups of persons based on race, belief or religion, unless otherwise approved by the Minister. These activities must meet the IPC's objectives under its governing instruments and the objectives of its Sector Administrator.