

FACTSHEET ON WORKFARE TRAINING SUPPORT (WTS) SCHEME

The Workfare Training Support (WTS) scheme is a three-year scheme announced by the Government in the 2010 Budget to complement the Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) scheme. The WTS encourages low wage workers to upgrade their skills through training, so that they can improve their employability and upgrade to better jobs. WTS also encourages employers to send their low wage workers for training.

WTS is open to Singapore citizens aged 35 years and above, and who are earning up to \$1,700 per month.

Lower Cost of Training for Low-Wage Workers and their Employers

Through WTS, low wage workers can benefit from higher course fee support when they sign up for any Singapore Workfare Skills Qualifications (WSQ) courses, including those for Employability Skills, at the Continuing Education and Training (CET) Centres:

Table 1: Course Fee Support under Workfare Training Support (WTS) scheme

| Singapore Citizens aged 35 years old and above | Course Fee Support |
|---|---------------------------|
| Earning \$1,400 and below per month | 95% |
| Earning between \$1,401 to \$1,700 per month | 90% |

To receive the higher course fee support, a low wage worker only needs to bring his/her NRIC and WTS/WIS notification letter to all CET Centres and Approved Training Organisations to sign up for training.

Employers who send their low wage workers for WSQ courses at all CET Centres and Approved Training Organisations can also receive the higher course fee support shown in *Table 1*. In addition, they can claim higher Absentee Payroll to cover the salaries of their low wage workers when they are away at training (*Table 2*).

Table 2: Absentee Payroll for Employers under WTS scheme

| Workers who are Singapore Citizens, aged 35 years old and above | Absentee Payroll |
|--|-------------------------|
| Earning \$1,400 and below per month | 95% |
| Earning between \$1,401 to \$1,700 per month | 90% |

Cash Award for Low-Wage Workers to Undergo Sustained Training

WTS also provides a cash award to encourage low wage workers to undergo, complete and pass sustained training. Known as the Training Commitment Award, it will be paid automatically to eligible WIS recipients together with their WIS payments as follows:

| | |
|---|-------|
| For every two modular WSQ Statements of Attainment attained | \$200 |
| For completing a WSQ qualification | \$200 |
| Maximum award an eligible WIS recipient can get in one year | \$400 |

To recognise low-wage workers' recent training efforts, a maximum of two SOAs completed in the 12-month period between 1 Jul 09 and 30 Jun 2010 will be recognised for the first payout in Sep 2010.

Strengthen Literacy Foundation for Skills Training

Workfare-Skill Up is a structured training programme to give low wage workers a stronger foundation in basic literacy so that they can continue with workplace skills training and enhance their ability to take on better jobs. The programme consists of:

- i. Motivational Workshops and Support Network to build confidence in trainees to commit to sustained training. Trainees will be provided with techniques and tips aimed at helping them persevere in their training. The trainees can also tap on a network of support with guidance from experienced career consultants and through peer-to-peer interactions.
- ii. Literacy Training Programmes to provide low wage workers with basic literacy training in reading, listening and speaking in English, based on the WSQ's Employability Skills (ES) framework. A milestone award of \$200 will be given for every literacy level that they attain.
- iii. Training Allowances will also be provided to offset the costs associated with training, and there will be Job Placement Services to place trainees into better jobs after training if necessary.

For more information on the Workfare Training Support (WTS) scheme or to register for Workfare-Skill Up, please call

WTS toll free hotline: **1 800-5368 333**
 Mon-Fri: 8.30am – 8.00pm; Sat: 8.30am – 1.00pm

Email: **wda_enquiry@wda.gov.sg**

Website: **www.workfare.sg**