

Disabled Persons Scheme (DPS)

General Questions

1. What is the Disabled Persons Scheme about?

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

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 S\$20,000.

If a car needs to be modified to suit the applicant's disability, an approval letter from Land Transport Authority (LTA) must be obtained first. 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 call LTA hotline at 1800-2255 582 for Engineering Division for advice on the procedure.

3. How long is the COE validity for vehicles registered under the DPS?

There is no expiry for COE vehicles registered under the DPS. This is because the COE is waived once the application is approved.

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

The COE and ARF for a second-hand car would already have been paid at the point when the car was registered. A DPS applicant cannot purchase a second-hand car in hope of having the paid COE and ARF refunded to him / her. The waiver of COE and ARF is applicable only to the purchase of a new car.

5. Can DPS car be used for private-hire transport services (e.g. Grab)?

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) waives COE and ARF, such cars will not be able to be registered to carry out private-hire transport services (e.g. Grab or Uber).

Eligibility Criteria

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

Applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- Singapore Citizen
- Persons with permanent physical disabilities who are medically certified by doctors from the Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Clinic for Advanced Rehabilitation Therapeutics (CART) as permanently disabled and incapable of taking public transport (i.e. bus and/or MRT), but fit to drive
- Gainfully employed and need a vehicle to earn a living
- Possess a valid Class 3 driving licence
- 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 NRICs.

3. Can persons with temporary disabilities or where the nature of the disability is uncertain, qualify for the waiver for ARF and COE under the DPS?

No. The DPS is only open to persons with permanent physical disabilities.

4. I already own a vehicle under the Normal Scheme but I would like to purchase a new vehicle with waiver for ARF and COE under the DPS. Is this possible?

Prior to registration of a vehicle under the DPS, 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 DPS.

5. I am a caregiver of a disabled person who requires frequent trips to medical and rehabilitation centres. Can I still apply for waiver for ARF and COE under the DPS?

The objective of DPS is to support working PWDs in earning a living and leading independent lives.

Persons with disabilities who are attending school or centre-based programmes may wish to consider applying for the Voluntary Welfare Organisation Transport Subsidy (VWOTS) scheme. The VWO Transport Subsidy (VWOTS) Scheme supports eligible Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents with disabilities who need to use dedicated transport provided by the Social Service Agencies (SSAs) to access the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC), Special Education (SPED) schools, Day Activity Centres (DACs), Sheltered Workshops (SWs) and Special Student Care Centres (SSCCs).

Persons who need to make frequent trips to the hospital may approach a Medical Social Worker (MSW) from the hospital or one of the Social Service Offices (SSOs) to enquire about any financial assistance available.

6. My last DPS application / appeal was rejected and I was advised to consider TSS. I plan to submit an appeal for my DPS application but would also like to try for TSS. Am I allowed to do so?

Applicants who wish to apply / appeal for DPS may also apply for TSS concurrently. This is to enable interim assistance while they await the outcome of their DPS application. However, upon the approval for DPS and prior to the utilisation, the applicant will have to withdraw from TSS. This is to make certain that the applicant will have sufficient time to purchase and register the new vehicle before the assistance from TSS is ceased.

7. 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"> • Singaporean only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singaporean and PR
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must be certified by a medical practitioner to have any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical Disability 2. Intellectual Disability 3. Visual Impairment 4. Hearing Impairment 5. Autism Spectrum Disorder and is 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 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"> • Prevailing subsidy tier based on National Means Testing

8. 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 his / her travel needs and financial circumstances before deciding on the more suitable travel option between the two.

9. 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.

Application Process

1. 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 submission, 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.

2. Can I go to my own GP to do the medical assessment?

No. Only assessment conducted by the Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Clinic for Advanced Rehabilitation Therapeutics (CART) will be recognised under the DPS.

Details of the clinic as follow:

Tan Tock Seng Hospital
Clinic for Advanced Rehabilitation Therapeutics (CART)
7 Jalan Tan Tock Seng, Annex 2 Level 1
Singapore 308440
Tel: 6889 4580

For information on operating hours and medical examination charges, please contact Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Clinic for Advanced Rehabilitation Therapeutics (CART) at Tel: 6889 4580. Doctor consultation is strictly by appointment only.

3. 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 assessments as well as any other expenses incurred during the course of DPS application.

Others

1. There are various assistance schemes and community-based resources available based on the persons' travelling needs.

PWDs (aged 7 to 60 years old) who are able to travel by bus / MRT may consider the Public Transport Concession Scheme (PTC) which provides 25% or more off adult travelling fares with the maximum distance charge capped at 7.2km. No means-testing required.

For travelling to school and centre-based programmes:

Voluntary Welfare Organisation Transport Subsidy (VWOTS)

- Provides up to 80% subsidy for transport fees (means-tested)
- SSA's services include Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC), Special Education (SPED) schools, Day Activity Centres (DACs), Sheltered Workshops (SWs) and Special Student Care Centres (SSCCs).

For travelling to school, work or employment-related training supported by SG Enable:

Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS)

- Provides up to 80% subsidy for taxi fares (means-tested)
- Persons must be medically certified as unable to travel by bus / MRT

For travelling to hospitals for medical purposes:

Persons may approach a Medical Social Worker (MSW) from the hospital or one of the Social Service Office (SSOs) to enquire about any financial assistance available.