

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIC Relief Fund – Construction Business Support Scheme

A Funding of HK\$120 Million to Support 6,000 SMEs in the Construction Industry

Hong Kong • 7 December 2020 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) announces that the “CIC Relief Fund – Construction Business Support Scheme” (the Scheme), with funding of HK\$120 million allocated to provide support to small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in the construction industry, will be launched on 1 January 2021 for application. With the united efforts together, the construction industry will overcome the economic challenges.

Mr. CHAN Ka-kui, Chairman of the CIC, said, “The economy has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The front-line construction enterprises face acute financial challenges, the demand for financial support is therefore strong. In view of this situation, the CIC will launch the Construction Business Support Scheme to provide assistance to SMEs in the industry through a one-off subsidy, expecting 6,000 eligible contractors, CIC Registered Specialist Trade Contractors and Registered Subcontractors will benefit under the Scheme. The CIC will continue to offer support and ride out this difficult time with the industry.”

In response to the focus of the Government’s *2020-21 Budget* on “supporting enterprises, safeguarding jobs, stimulating the economy and relieving people’s burden”, the Scheme aims to support the inevitable operating expenses of the enterprises incurred between January 2021 to June 2021 including (a) office rental, management fee and rates in commercial or industrial buildings and/or (b) construction machine or equipment rental (excluding costs of drivers or other ancillary costs).

Eligible applicants are entitled to a one-off subsidy up to HK\$20,000 on a reimbursement basis. Applicants must be SMEs which employed one to fewer than 50 persons in Hong Kong in October 2020, and must be Levy Paying Contractors, CIC Registered Specialist Trade Contractors or Registered Subcontractors.

Application period for the Scheme will start from 1 January to 31 July 2021. Each eligible applicant can submit one application and upload documentary proof through an online platform on the CIC website (www.cic.hk). The CIC will directly deposit the subsidy into the company bank accounts of successful applicants through autopay in about four weeks.

For further enquiries, please email to cicfund@cic.hk or call 3199 7355. (Please refer to the poster of CIC Relief Fund – Construction Business Support Scheme on page 2)



Construction Industry Council Relief Fund

Construction Business Support Scheme

Target Beneficiaries : Small to Medium Enterprises

- Levy Paying Contractors
- CIC Registered Specialist Trade Contractors
- CIC Registered Subcontractors

Subsidy :

Maximum **HK\$20,000**
per eligible enterprise

Eligibility

- MUST be small to medium enterprises which employed one to fewer than 50 persons ^{Note1} in Hong Kong in October 2020; AND
- MUST be Levy Paying Contractors ^{Note2}, CIC Registered Specialist Trade Contractors or Registered Subcontractors ^{Note3}

Note1 "Persons" include all staff directly employed by the applicants including management, back office staff, front-line workers, etc.

"Employment" hereby refers to (a) an employee who has been employed continuously by the same employer for four weeks or more, with at least 18 hours worked in each week; and (b) "casual employees" whom the applicant had made contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund for 15 days or more in October 2020.

Note2 "Contractors" who had levy payable from 1 January 2019 to 23 October 2020 pursuant to the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587).

Note3 CIC Registered Specialist Trade Contractors (RSTCs) and Registered Subcontractors (RSs) holding valid registration on 23 October 2020 and on the application date to the Scheme (inclusive new and renewal applications submitted on or before 23 October 2020 as well as on application date to the Scheme which were subsequently approved).

Construction Industry Council reserves the right to modify or amend the Terms and Conditions of the Construction Business Support Scheme from time to time

Coverage

On reimbursement basis covering the below expenses for January to June 2021

- Office rental, management fee and rates (only applicable to commercial or industrial buildings) and / or
- Construction machine or equipment rental (excluding costs of drivers or other ancillary costs)

Required Documents

1. Declaration on number of staff employed in October 2020 in the online application form
2. Invoices of the rental charges for January to June 2021 (any one or multiple invoices) showing property address and / or photos showing machine / equipment serial numbers
3. Receipts or bank transfer record for payment of the invoices
4. First page of bank statement of recent three months or bank book showing account holder's name as same as the applicant and the bank account number for autopay verification purpose



Prepare documents



Apply online



Wait for approval



Receive subsidy through autopay to the company bank account in about four weeks upon successful application

Application Period

Online application opens from
1 January to 31 July 2021

ONE APPLICATION PER ENTERPRISE

Late submission of application will not be considered



Scheme Details



**CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**
建造業議會

Media and Enquiries

Corporate Communications Department

Tel: 2100 9000

Fax: 2100 9090

Email: corpcomm@cic.hk

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.