

FEBRUARY 2012

FACTSHEET: NEU PC PLUS

IDA's effort in equipping needy households with computer ownership started in 1999. To date, the NEU PC programme has benefited close to 32,000 needy households whose gross monthly household income do not exceed \$2,700 or whose per capita monthly income do not exceed \$700.

A programme review was conducted in early 2011 to assess if the schemes are still relevant and can continue to assist the students from low-income households. The programme income cap was raised from \$2500 to \$2700 for gross monthly household income and per capita income from \$625 to \$700 to assist more low income families. This change was effective from 1 November 2011.

IDA also introduced a new funding scheme of providing grants to schools to assist their needy students. The model provides flexibility and autonomy to schools to allow them to deploy suitable/specialised infocomm devices, software and broadband services to students from low-income household in order that the students' learning needs are met according to the schools' IT requirements. This scheme was effective from 1 September 2011.

There are three other schemes under the NEU PC Plus Programme:

1. PC-Bundle Scheme - Offers new computer (desktop or laptop) bundled with 3-year free broadband access and software at an affordable price through a two-tier subsidy. The following table summarises :

NEU PC Plus		
Citizenship/ Residential Status	Singapore Citizen	Singapore Citizen or PR
Total monthly household income	Up to \$2,700 (wef 1 Nov 2011)	
Per capita monthly income	Up to \$500	Above \$500 & up to \$700 OR up to \$875 if there is a disabled member
Subsidy	Up to 75%	Up to 50%
PC Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 models of entry level and mid range desktop PC • 5 models of entry level and mid range laptop PC 	

Co-payment amount payable by applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-payment for desktop PC ranged from \$146 to \$312 • Co-payment for laptop PC ranged from \$214 to \$621
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2. iNSPIRE Fund – In November 2007, IDA launched the iNSPIRE fund, to complement the PC-Bundle and Broadband-Only Schemes offered under the NEU PC Plus programme. The iNSPRE fund helps PC-Bundle Scheme applicants who cannot afford the co-payment amount to earn their PC by doing some form of community service. To date, the iNSPIRE fund has benefitted 412 applicants.

Overview of iNSPIRE Fund:

Criteria	Requirements
Total monthly household income, or	Up to \$1,800
Per capita monthly income	Up to \$500
No of hours of community service	a. aged below 15 years old to render 6 or 12 hours of community service for desktop or laptop respectively b. aged 15 years old and above to render 12 or 24 hours of community service for desktop or laptop respectively

3. **Broadband-Only Scheme** – A supplementary scheme to provide subsidised 3-year broadband service to students who already own a PC but cannot afford to pay for Internet services. Applicants need only to co-pay \$1.50 per month or \$54 for three years to enjoy the subsidised broadband package. With effect from 1 November 2011, this scheme will be applicable to Singaporean needy students whose household income does not exceed \$1800 or per capita income does not exceed \$500.

Support from the Community and Industry

The following are appointed as Lead Agencies for application processing:

- Association of Muslim Professionals
- Central Sikh Gurdwara Board
- Chinese Development Assistance Council
- Eurasian Association
- Institute of Technical Education
- Singapore Indian Development Association
- Society for the Physically Disabled
- Yayasan MENDAKI

The industry sponsors are Microsoft, Maybank and Singapore infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF)¹. The broadband providers are SingTel and M1.

The NEU PC Plus is one of the key programmes under the iN2015 Masterplan's digital inclusion initiative that aims to develop an all inclusive digital society.

For more information, please visit www.ida.gov.sg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION **IDA Communication Contact**

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¹ SiTF collaborates with the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre to promote volunteerism using SiTF's V-Fund (a fund set up to promote volunteerism initiatives).