

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the extended COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF2)

1. What is the objective and coverage for the CDRF2 scheme?

The COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) is a sector-specific scheme to help taxi and PHC drivers affected by COVID-19 tide over this period of economic uncertainty and depressed taxi/ PHC ridership. The CDRF2 scheme will mirror the key elements of CDRF, e.g. eligibility criteria based on trip count for PHC drivers, disbursement through operators. The extension of the CDRF for three months from July 2021 will help support taxi and PHC drivers, who continue to serve commuters during this period of calibrated, gradual reopening.

2. Why is the payout for the CDRF2 at \$300/vehicle/month for July and August 2021 and \$150/vehicle/month for September 2021?

As announced by the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on 10 June 2021, we will move to Phase 3 (Heightened Alert) from 14 June 2021 as part of a calibrated reopening, with further reopening from 21 June 2021 if the COVID-19 situation remains under control in the coming weeks. Even after we exit Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), it remains essential to keep transmission risks in check, so work-from-home will continue to be the default arrangement and there will be capacity limits at malls and restaurants. We expect taxi and PHC ridership to improve over the coming months due to the gradual reopening. However, we understand that ridership will take time to recover.

In consultation with tripartite partners, the Government will thus extend the COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) for another three months to support taxi and PHC drivers. The CDRF2 payouts have been calibrated at a higher quantum of \$300/vehicle/month for July and August 2021. As Singapore focuses on more extensive testing, faster contact-tracing and pressing on with our vaccination exercise, we can hope for even more activities to resume in September 2021 and, the CDRF2 payouts has thus been calibrated at a lower quantum of \$150/vehicle/month.

This is similar to other sectors, where Government relief has been tapered and will cease over time. LTA will continue to monitor the situation closely and the effect on ridership to ensure that drivers can continue to provide taxi and PHC services for commuters.

3. If Singapore tightens our safe management measures again, will LTA provide a similar one-off top-up to CDRF2 as the Government did for CDRF?

The Government will actively monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the taxi and PHC sector. Should the situation regress, we will assess, in consultation with tripartite partners, if further support is needed.

4. How do taxi and PHC drivers qualify for CDRF2?

All existing CDRF recipients will automatically qualify for CDRF2. Taxi main hirers will receive CDRF payouts in the form of rental rebates. New active PHC drivers who joined the sector from January to May 2021, will automatically receive CDRF2 payouts if they meet LTA's eligibility criteria. LTA will share the criteria at a later date.

5. What are the differences between the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)'s COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) and COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF)? Why are taxi and PHC drivers ineligible to apply for CRG if they are already receiving CDRF?

The CDRF2 scheme is a sector-specific scheme intended to support taxi and PHC drivers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19. On the other hand, MSF's CRG is a broad-based scheme that is intended to support employees and self-employed persons who remain financially impacted by COVID-19. Since both CRG and CDRF2 schemes serve similar intents, taxi and PHC drivers should only receive support through one of these two schemes, at any one time. This is similar to the approach for the earlier tranche of CDRF.

6. Can taxi and PHC drivers who do not qualify for CDRF2 apply for Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)'s COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG)?

Taxi and PHC drivers who do not qualify for COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) can approach MSF to apply for the CRG if they meet the grant's eligibility criteria. CRG is a broad-based scheme that is intended to support employees and self-employed persons who remain financially impacted by COVID-19. Since both the CRG and CDRF serve similar intents, taxi and PHC drivers should only receive support through one of these two schemes.

7. What are the differences between the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)'s COVID-19 Recovery Grant-Temporary (CRG-T) and COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF)? Are taxi and PHC drivers eligible to apply for the CDRF2 scheme if they had received MSF's CRG-T?

The CDRF is a sector-specific scheme intended to support taxi and PHC drivers whose livelihoods continue to be affected by COVID-19. On the other hand, MSF's CRG-T is a one-off financial support for employees and self-employed persons who have been placed on involuntary no-pay leave, or face income loss of at least 50% for one month due to the tightened safe management measures during the Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) period.

As there is no overlap period between the CDRF2 scheme and CRG-T, CRG-T recipients are eligible to receive CDRF2 payouts if they meet LTA's eligibility criteria.

Taxi Drivers

8. How will taxi drivers know if they qualify for CDRF2?

All existing main hirers are eligible to receive the CDRF2 payouts through their taxi companies.

9. How will a relief taxi driver benefit from CDRF2?

Similar to COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF), the monthly payouts for CDRF2 will be provided to the main hirer. Main hirers are strongly encouraged to share the amount received with their relief drivers. Relief drivers may wish to approach their respective taxi companies for further clarification.

10. What can a relief driver do if the main hirer is not willing to share CDRF2 payouts with the relief taxi hirer?

Main hirers are encouraged to share the amount received with their relief drivers. Any disputes between drivers should be raised to their respective operators.

11. I was formerly a PHC driver who had switched over to driving a taxi. Am I eligible for the CDRF2 scheme?

In this situation, you will be eligible for the CDRF2 scheme if you:

- are the main hirer; and
- continue driving the taxi during the period of assistance i.e. 30 June – 27 September 2021.

You will not be eligible to receive CDRF2 through your PHC operator if you are receiving it as a taxi driver.

12. How will yellow top taxi drivers receive the CDRF2 payout?

Similar to past COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) tranches, LTA will contact yellow top owners directly on the disbursement process.

PHC Drivers

13. How will PHC drivers know if they qualify for the CDRF2 scheme?

All existing PHC drivers who qualify for COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) will automatically qualify for the CDRF2. Similar to the CDRF, eligible drivers will receive payouts if they complete at least one trip in the preceding month of the CDRF2 disbursement period with their nominated operator. Eligible drivers will be informed by the PHC operators of their eligibility.

14. Will PHC drivers who are on multiple platforms be able to receive more CDRF2 payouts?

No. Driving for multiple platforms will not increase the CDRF2 scheme payouts provided. PHC drivers will be required to nominate their preferred PHC operator to disburse their CDRF2.

15. Will PHC drivers be able to change their operator nomination for the CDRF2 scheme?

Yes. PHC drivers will be able to do a re-nomination of their preferred operator to receive their CDRF2 scheme payouts.

16. I do not meet the criteria for the CDRF2 scheme as I provide limousine services. Can these limousine trips be counted?

The COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) scheme is intended to help drivers who provide taxi and PHC services to the masses prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. We do not consider limousine services and other niche transport services as eligible trips under CDRF unless they are performed under mainstream platforms such as Grab, GoJek, TADA, Ryde or ComfortDelgro. PHC drivers who do not qualify for the CDRF2 scheme can apply for Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)'s COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) if they meet CRG eligibility criteria.

17. I am a PHC driver sharing a vehicle with one or more PHC driver(s) who is/are eligible for the CDRF2 scheme. Will I need to share my CDRF2 payouts?

Similar to the approach for COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF), if you are eligible for the CDRF2 scheme, your CDRF2 payouts will be pro-rated according to the number of eligible drivers who are sharing your vehicle during the eligibility period. For example, if there are 2 eligible drivers who share one vehicle, each driver will be entitled to half of the relief quantum from the Government i.e. \$150/month from July–September 2021 and \$75/month for October 2021.

18. I was formerly a taxi driver who had switched over to driving a PHC. Am I eligible for the CDRF2 scheme?

Please approach LTA with your details so that LTA may determine your eligibility status. PHC drivers who do not qualify for the CDRF2 scheme can approach Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) to apply for the COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) if they meet the grant's eligibility criteria.

19. How will the Government ensure that taxi and PHC drivers do not receive both the COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) and the CDRF2 (i.e. double-dipping)?

LTA and Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) have worked closely to operationalise an approach at the backend to ensure double dipping does not occur. Drivers who qualify for the CDRF2 scheme will also need to acknowledge specific terms and conditions that state they will not be considered for CRG.

20. If I am a P2P driver who leaves/has left the sector in 2021, will I be able to qualify for COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG)?

You may enquire with Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) on your eligibility for CRG. LTA will work with MSF at the backend to ascertain that you have left the P2P sector, and cease all CDRF2 scheme payments, before your CRG application is processed.

21. If I am a COVID-19 Recovery Grant (CRG) recipient and joined the P2P sector in 2021, will I be able to qualify for the CDRF2 scheme?

LTA will assess new drivers' appeals for the CDRF2 scheme. If your appeal for the CDRF2 scheme is successful, your CRG payouts will cease.