

Press Release

1.4 Million Singaporeans to Receive \$570 Million in GST Vouchers in August 2020

Eligible Singaporeans will receive up to \$300 in GST Voucher – Cash; eligible seniors will receive up to \$450 in GST Voucher – MediSave top-ups.

This is a permanent scheme introduced in 2012 to help lower- and middle-income Singaporeans offset some of their GST expenses.

Since 2012, GST Voucher (GSTV) benefits have been disbursed to eligible Singaporeans in August. This year, 1.4 million Singaporeans will be receiving their GSTV benefits in next month. Of these eligible citizens, nine in 10 will receive their GSTV payouts automatically.

2 There is a small number of citizens who qualify for GSTV but have not signed up for government payouts in the past. They will be invited via SMS notification or letter to sign up at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg, before the deadline of 31 May 2021.

3 The following table summarises what the eligible citizens can expect in the coming months.

Month	Milestones & What Citizens Can Expect
July 2020	<p><u>Notification of GST Voucher Benefits</u></p> <p>Eligible Singaporeans who have registered their mobile numbers with SingPass will receive <u>SMS</u> notifications between 1 to 3 July, informing them of their GSTV benefits. The rest will receive letters from 1 July.</p> <p>To verify the authenticity of the SMS notification, citizens can check that the SMS is sent by “GSTV”. These SMS notifications only <u>inform</u> citizens of their benefits. Citizens will <u>not</u> be asked to reply to their SMS or to provide any information to the sender “GSTV”.</p> <p>Those who wish to view their GSTV – Cash and MediSave benefits online can do so at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg (using SingPass to log on).</p>
August 2020	<p><u>GST Voucher – Cash</u></p> <p>The GSTV – Cash of up to \$300 will be credited directly into citizens’ bank accounts from 1 August 2020.</p> <p>Those who have not provided their bank account numbers can do so easily at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg. Those who do so by 22 July 2020 will receive their payouts via bank transfer on 1 August 2020. The rest will receive cheques sent to their official address, by 17 August 2020.</p> <p>In total, the GSTV – Cash payouts will amount to about \$410 million.</p>

Month	Milestones & What Citizens Can Expect
	<p><u>GST Voucher – MediSave</u></p> <p>About 545,000 Singaporeans aged 65 and above in 2020 will receive a top-up to their MediSave accounts of up to \$450 each from 1 August 2020.</p> <p>In total, the top-ups will amount to about \$160 million.</p>

Annex A provides more information on the benefits, and Annex B lists illustrations of how various households are expected to benefit from the schemes mentioned.

Summary of Other Benefits for Singaporeans and Households in 2020

4 Other Government payouts which Singaporeans can receive in 2020 include:

For Individuals

- 5-Year MediSave Top-up scheme: Singaporeans who were born on or before 31 December 1969 (51 and above in 2020) and do not receive Pioneer Generation or Merdeka Generation benefits will each receive a **MediSave top-up of \$100** credited into their MediSave accounts in end August 2020. This is the 5-Year MediSave Top-up scheme that was announced in Budget 2019. Eligible citizens will receive the MediSave top-up annually from 2019 to 2023.
- Solidarity Payment: Each adult Singaporean (aged 21 and above in 2020) would have received a **cash payout of \$600** in April 2020. This comprises \$300 of the Care and Support – Cash which has been brought forward to be paid out earlier, and an additional \$300. Adult Permanent Residents living in Singapore with Singaporean parent(s), spouse or child(ren), and Long-Term Visit Pass-Plus (LTVP+) holders living in Singapore would have received \$300 each¹.
- Care and Support – Cash: Each adult Singaporean (aged 21 and above in 2020) will receive a **cash payout of \$900, \$600, or \$300**, depending on income and number of properties owned. \$300 of the Care and Support – Cash has been paid out in April under the Solidarity Payment of \$600. Each Singaporean parent with Singaporean children aged 20 and below in 2020 will receive an additional cash of \$300. Singaporeans aged 50 and above in 2020 will also receive an additional cash of \$100, in place of the earlier announced PAssion Card Top-up².
- Workfare Special Payment: All Singaporean workers who received Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) payments for work done in 2019 will receive a Workfare Special Payment in the form of a **cash payout of \$3,000**. This will be paid in two equal payments of \$1,500 each, in July and October 2020.

¹ More information on the Solidarity Payment at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/budget-2020-solidarity-payment-nine-in-10-singaporeans-will-receive-600dollars-each-directly-credited-into-their-bank-accounts-on-tuesday-14-april-2020>.

² More information on the Care and Support – Cash at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/budget-2020-care-and-support-cash-to-be-paid-from-18-june-2020>.

- **Grocery Vouchers:** All Singaporeans aged 21 and above, who live in 1-room or 2-room HDB flats and do not own more than one property, will receive **Grocery Vouchers worth \$300 in 2020, and \$100 in 2021**. The 2020 Grocery Vouchers will be given to eligible citizens in October and December 2020.

For Households

- **GSTV – U-Save:** Eligible HDB households will receive **double their regular GSTV – U-Save** in FY2020, through a one-off GSTV – U-Save Special Payment. Eligible households with five or more members will receive an additional GSTV – U-Save rebate, and will thus receive a total of **2.5 times their regular GSTV – U-Save** in FY2020. The GSTV – U-Save benefits amount to about \$630 million and benefit about 940,000 Singaporean HDB households³.
- **Solidarity Utilities Credit:** All households in Singapore with at least one Singaporean member will receive a **one-off \$100 utilities credit**, to thank them for doing their part in staying home for Singapore during the period of heightened safe distancing measures. Eligible households will receive the Credit automatically in their SP Group utilities account for their residential property, in the July or August 2020 utilities bills.
- **Service and Conservancy Charges (S&CC) Rebate:** The S&CC Rebate provides additional support for households. Around 940,000 Singaporean HDB households will receive **1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC Rebate** between April 2020 to January 2021, depending on their HDB flat type⁴.

Contact Information

5 More information on the GSTV is available at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg, and details of other benefits announced in Budget 2020 can be found at: www.singaporebudget.gov.sg. For more information on the specific schemes, the contact details are as follows:

Scheme	Telephone	Contact
GSTV – Cash and MediSave	1800-2222-888	www.gstvoucher.gov.sg
5-Year MediSave Top-up		contactus@govtopup.gov.sg
Solidarity Payment		https://go.gov.sg/sp2020
Care and Support – Cash		https://go.gov.sg/csp2020
Workfare Special Payment	1800-227-1188	www.cpf.gov.sg/writetous
GSTV – U-Save	6671-7117	customersupport@spgroup.com.sg

³ More information on the GSTV – U-Save at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/budget-2020-care-and-support-package-940-000-hdb-households-to-receive-gst-voucher-u-save-in-april-2020>.

⁴ More information on the S&CC Rebate at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/budget-2020-care-and-support-package-134-million-in-s-cc-rebate-for-940-000-hdb-households>.

Scheme	Telephone	Contact
Solidarity Utilities Credit		
S&CC Rebate	1800-866-3078	screbates@mailbox.hdb.gov.sg

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About the GST Voucher (GSTV)

The permanent GST Voucher scheme was introduced by the Government in Budget 2012 to help lower- and middle-income Singaporeans offset some of their GST expenses. The GST Voucher comprises three components – Cash, MediSave and U-Save. GST Voucher – Cash provides lower-income Singaporeans with some cash for immediate needs, and is paid every August. The GST Voucher – MediSave, which provides elderly Singaporeans aged 65 and above with a CPF MediSave account top-up to support their medical needs, is similarly paid every August. Lastly, the GST Voucher – U-Save provides lower- and middle-income HDB households with a rebate to offset their utilities bills, and households receive their rebates every January, April, July and October.

More information on the GSTV can be found at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg.

About Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance aims to advance the well-being and development of Singapore through Finance. The Ministry strives to achieve a balanced budget through prudent and sustainable fiscal policies; fosters a regulatory environment conducive to business and enterprise; ensures prudent investment of the Government's reserves and other public funds, and sets policies for government procurement, customs regulation, accounting standards and business regulation.

We achieve this together with our departments - Accountant-General's Department, Singapore Customs and Vital, and statutory boards/bodies - Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, Tote Board and Singapore Accountancy Commission.

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Table A1: GSTV – Cash

Singaporeans aged 21 and above in 2020 Assessable Income for YA2019 ≤ \$28,000	Annual Value of Home as at 31 Dec 2019		Paid on*
	Up to \$13,000	\$13,001 to \$21,000	
GSTV – Cash payment	\$300	\$150	1 Aug 2020

Note: Individuals who own more than one property are not eligible for the GSTV Scheme.

* Cheque payment takes two weeks longer. Citizens are encouraged to switch to direct bank crediting at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg.

Table A2: GSTV – MediSave

Age in 2020	Annual Value of Home as at 31 Dec 2019		Paid on*
	Up to \$13,000	\$13,001 to \$21,000	
65 to 74	\$250	\$150	1 Aug 2020
75 to 84	\$350	\$250	
85 and above	\$450	\$350	

Table A3: MediSave Top-ups in 2020

Age in 2020	Amount of MediSave Top-up					Paid in
	5-Year MediSave Top-up	Merdeka Generation Package [#]	Pioneer Generation Package [#]	GST Voucher	Total	
51 to 60	\$100				\$100	July 2020 (PGP and MGP)
61 to 64		\$200			\$200	
65 to 70		\$200		Up to \$250	Up to \$450	
71 to 74			\$200	Up to \$250	Up to \$450	August 2020 (GSTV and 5-Year MediSave Top-up)
75			\$200	Up to \$350	Up to \$550	
76 to 80			\$400	Up to \$350	Up to \$750	
81 to 84			\$600	Up to \$350	Up to \$950	
85			\$600	Up to \$450	Up to \$1,050	
86 and above			\$800	Up to \$450	Up to \$1,250	

[#] Citizens aged 61 and above who are not eligible for the Merdeka Generation Package (MGP) and the Pioneer Generation Package (PGP) can receive the 5-Year MediSave Top-up.

Table A4: Household Benefits

HDB Type	GSTV – U-Save and U-Save Special Payment in FY2020				
	April 2020	July 2020	October 2020	January 2021	Total GSTV – U-Save to be received in FY2020
1- and 2-room	\$300	\$300	\$100 or \$200	\$100 or \$200	\$800 or \$1,000
3-room	\$270	\$270	\$90 or \$180	\$90 or \$180	\$720 or \$900
4-room	\$240	\$240	\$80 or \$160	\$80 or \$160	\$640 or \$800
5-room	\$210	\$210	\$70 or \$140	\$70 or \$140	\$560 or \$700
Executive/ Multi-Generation	\$180	\$180	\$60 or \$120	\$60 or \$120	\$480 or \$600

Note: Households whose members own more than one property are not eligible for U-Save.

HDB Type	Payout Month & Quantum of S&CC Rebate in FY2020				
	April 2020 (month)	July 2020 (month)	October 2020 (month)	January 2021 (month)	Total for FY2020 (months)
1- and 2-room	1	1	1	0.5	3.5
3- and 4-room	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5
5-room	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.0
Executive/ Multi-Generation	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.5

Note: Households with a member owning or having any interest in a private property, or have rented out the entire flat, are not eligible for the S&CC Rebate.

Illustration of Benefits

1. For example, a **retired Pioneer couple** (husband aged 80, wife aged 77), living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property) will receive the benefits below in 2020:

Individual
\$3,200 in cash (\$300 in Solidarity Payment, \$900 in Care and Support – Cash, \$100 in PAssion Card Top-up in cash and \$300 GSTV – Cash <u>per person</u>)
\$1,700 in MediSave top-ups (\$350 GSTV – MediSave and \$600 Pioneer Generation MediSave <u>for husband</u>) (\$350 GSTV – MediSave and \$400 Pioneer Generation MediSave <u>for wife</u>)
Household
\$480 to \$800 of GSTV – U-Save in FY2020
\$100 of Solidarity Utilities Credit
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC Rebate in FY2020

2. A **retired Merdeka Generation couple in their 60s** (husband aged 66, wife aged 61 who had been a housewife) living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property) will receive the benefits below in 2020:

Individual
\$3,200 in cash (\$300 in Solidarity Payment, \$900 in Care and Support – Cash, \$100 in PAssion Card Top-up in cash and \$300 GSTV – Cash <u>per person</u>)
\$650 in MediSave top-ups (\$250 GSTV – MediSave and \$200 Merdeka Generation MediSave <u>for husband</u>) (\$200 Merdeka Generation MediSave <u>for wife</u>)
Household
\$480 to \$800 of GSTV – U-Save in FY2020
\$100 of Solidarity Utilities Credit
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC Rebate in FY2020

3. A **lower-income working couple** in their 40s, with both the husband and wife each having a monthly salary of \$2,000, living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property), will receive the benefits below in 2020:

Individual
\$9,000 in cash (\$300 in Solidarity Payment, \$900 in Care and Support – Cash and \$300 GSTV – Cash <u>per person</u>) (\$3,000 Workfare Special Payment <u>per person</u>)
Household
\$480 to \$800 of GSTV – U-Save in FY2020
\$100 of Solidarity Utilities Credit
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC Rebate in FY2020