

Press Release

\$1 Billion of GST Vouchers and MediSave Top-Ups for 1.6 Million Singaporeans

A total of **1.6 million** eligible citizens will receive notifications by 6 July 2018 on their 2018 GST Voucher (GSTV) benefits and MediSave top-ups. Citizens may also use SingPass to view their GSTV – Cash and MediSave benefits online at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg. Similar to the notification exercise last year, citizens with mobile numbers updated with SingPass will receive SMS notifications. Other recipients will receive letter notifications. This will bring about convenience to citizens and will also be more eco-friendly.

GST Voucher Scheme

2 The GSTV is a permanent scheme introduced in 2012 to provide targeted assistance to Singaporeans to offset some of their GST expenses. GSTV and GST form an important part of Singapore's progressive system of taxes and transfers (see infographic in [Annex A](#)).

Individual benefits

GSTV – Cash

3 About **1.39 million** eligible Singaporeans will receive **up to \$300** in GSTV – Cash in **August 2018**. The GSTV – Cash payments will amount to \$410 million in total. To receive payouts directly into their bank accounts, eligible citizens are encouraged to update their bank account details at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg if they have not already done so, as cheque payments will take two weeks longer to process.

MediSave Top-Ups

4 About **485,000 Singaporeans aged 65 years and above in 2018** will receive **up to \$450** in GSTV – MediSave of in **August 2018**. The top-ups will amount to about \$144 million in total.

5 In addition, Singaporeans who are born on or before 31 December 1959 (59 years and above in 2018) and do not receive Pioneer Generation (PG) benefits will receive a MediSave top-up of **up to \$200** in 2018. The top-up will benefit about **520,000** citizens, and cost \$95 million. It will be credited into eligible citizens' MediSave accounts in **August 2018**. In total:

- A non-Pioneer aged 65 in 2018 living in an HDB flat¹ can receive \$450 of MediSave top-ups this year.

6 Pioneers will also receive their PG MediSave top-ups² of between \$200 to \$800 in July 2018. Considering both the PG MediSave and GSTV – MediSave:

- A Pioneer aged 75 in 2018 living in an HDB flat¹ will receive \$750 of MediSave top-ups;

¹ Figures cited are based on the assumption that the recipients do not own a second property.

² View more information on the PG MediSave top-up at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/Newsroom/press-releases/180-million-of-medisave-top-ups-for-pioneers-in-2018>.

- A Pioneer aged 85 in 2018 living in an HDB flat¹ will receive \$1,250 of MediSave top-ups.

SG Bonus

7 In addition to the GSTV scheme, as announced at Budget 2018, Singaporeans aged 21 and above in 2018 can receive an SG Bonus of **up to \$300** at the end of the year. Eligible citizens will receive a notification letter on their SG Bonus benefits by October 2018.

Household Benefits

GSTV – U-Save

8 The GSTV – U-Save is given every three months to help offset utilities bills directly. As announced at Budget 2018, eligible HDB households will receive an additional U-Save of \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021. The GSTV – U-Save benefits will amount to about \$280 million annually and benefit about **900,000** eligible Singaporean HDB households.

One-off Service & Conservancy Charges (S&CC) Rebate

9 The one-off S&CC rebate was announced at Budget 2018 to provide additional support to households. Around **900,000** eligible Singaporean HDB households will receive **1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate** between April 2018 to January 2019, depending on their HDB flat type³.

What this means for you

10 Most citizens will automatically receive their GSTV payouts if they had signed up for the GSTV or any other government payout scheme in the past. For the small number of citizens who have not signed up for the GSTV or past government payouts, they have until 31 December 2018 to sign up online, or through a hardcopy form (found at the Community Centres). Please see Annex B for more information on the benefits and Annex C for examples of three Singaporean archetypes, including the household benefits they will receive.

Contact Information

11 Details on the GSTV can be found at www.gstvoucher.gov.sg, and information on the other benefits announced at Budget 2018 can be found at www.singaporebudget.gov.sg. If you require more information, the contact details are as follows:

Scheme	Telephone	Email
GSTV – Cash and MediSave	1800-2222-888	contactus@gstvoucher.gov.sg
GSTV – U-Save	6671-7117	customersupport@spgroup.com.sg
S&CC rebate	1800-866-3078	sccrebates@mailbox.hdb.gov.sg
SingPass	6643-0555	support@singpass.gov.sg

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³ View more information on the S&CC rebate at <https://www.mof.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/900-000-hdb-households-to-receive-126-million-of-s-cc-rebate-as-part-of-budget-2018>.

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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. Similarly paid every August is the GST Voucher – MediSave, which provides elderly Singaporeans aged 65 and above with a CPF MediSave account top-up to support their medical needs. Lastly, the GST Voucher – U-Save provides lower- and middle-income HDB households with a rebate to offset their utilities bills, and is paid 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, foster a regulatory environment conducive to business and enterprise, ensure 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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**How GST and GSTV
are part of a fair system**

Table B1: GSTV – Cash

Singaporeans aged 21 years and above in 2018 Assessable Income for YA 2017 ≤ \$28,000	Annual Value of Home as at 31 Dec 2017		Paid on*
	Up to \$13,000	\$13,001 to \$21,000	
GSTV – Cash payment	\$300	\$150	1 Aug 2018

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 B2: Total MediSave Top-Ups

Age in 2018	Amount of MediSave Top-Up*	Paid in
59 to 64 years	Up to \$200	Jul 2018 (PG) Aug 2018 (GSTV and MTS5)
65 to 73 years	Up to \$450	
74 years	Up to \$650	
75 to 78 years	Up to \$750	
79 to 83 years	Up to \$950	
84 years	Up to \$1,150	
85 years and above	Up to \$1,250	

* Includes GSTV – MediSave, PG MediSave Top-Up and 5-year MediSave Top-Up (MTS5)

Table B3: Household Benefits[#]

[#] Households whose members own more than one property are not eligible for U-Save and S&CC rebate

HDB Flat Type	GSTV – U-Save				Total rebates
	Jul 2018	Oct 2018	Jan 2019*	Apr 2019*	
1- and 2-room	\$95	\$95	\$100	\$100	\$390
3-room	\$85	\$85	\$90	\$90	\$350
4-room	\$75	\$75	\$80	\$80	\$310
5-room	\$65	\$65	\$70	\$70	\$270
Executive/ Multi-Gen	\$55	\$55	\$60	\$60	\$230

* Eligible HDB households will receive an additional U-Save of \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021

HDB Flat Type	FY2018 S&CC Rebate (no. of months)				Total for FY2018
	Apr 2018	Jul 2018	Oct 2018	Jan 2019	
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
Executive/ Multi-Gen	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.5

What this means for you

1. For example, a **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 2018:

Individual
\$1,200 in cash (\$300 GSTV – Cash and \$300 SG Bonus <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
\$220 to \$380 of GSTV – U-Save rebate annually, with additional \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate in FY2018

2. A **retired couple in their 60s** (husband aged 66, wife aged 60) living in an HDB flat (and not owning a second property) will receive the benefits below in 2018:

Individual
\$1,200 in cash (\$300 GSTV – Cash and \$300 SG Bonus <u>per person</u>)
\$650 in MediSave top-ups (\$200 of 5-year MediSave Top-Up <u>per person</u> and \$250 GSTV – MediSave <u>for husband</u>)
Household
\$220 to \$380 of GSTV – U-Save rebate annually, with additional \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate in FY2018

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 2018:

Individual
\$1,200 in cash (\$300 GSTV – Cash and \$300 SG Bonus <u>per person</u>)
Household
\$220 to \$380 of GSTV – U-Save rebate annually, with additional \$20 a year from 2019 to 2021
1.5 to 3.5 months of S&CC rebate in FY2018