

Press Release

900,000 HDB Households to Receive GST Voucher – U-Save Rebate in April 2018

About 900,000 Singaporean HDB households will receive the next instalment of the GST Voucher – Utilities-Save (U-Save) rebate in April 2018.

2 The U-Save rebate is one of three components under the permanent GST Voucher scheme. The U-Save rebate helps HDB households to offset part of their utilities bills, and serves to lower overall household expenses. It is distributed every three months. The U-Save rebate is expected to cost \$265 million over four quarters, starting from July 2017.

3 Annually, the permanent GST Voucher – U-Save rebate has enabled households in 1and 2-room HDB flats to receive support which is equivalent to about **3 to 4 months** of their utilities bills on average. Those living in 3- and 4-room HDB flats has received support equivalent to about **1 to 2 months** of their utilities bills.

4 In April 2018, eligible Singaporean households will each receive a GST Voucher – U-Save of up to \$95, depending on their HDB flat type (see <u>Table 1</u>).

| HDB Flat type | Rebate given in Jul 2017 | Rebate given in Oct 2017 | Rebate given in Jan 2018 | Rebate to be received in Apr 2018 | Total rebate annually |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1- and 2-Room | \$95 | \$95 | \$95 | \$95 | \$380 |
| 3-Room | \$85 | \$85 | \$85 | \$85 | \$340 |
| 4-Room | \$75 | \$75 | \$75 | \$75 | \$300 |
| 5-Room | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 | \$260 |
| Executive/Multi -Generation | \$55 | \$55 | \$55 | \$55 | \$220 |

Table 1: GST Voucher – U-Save for April 2018

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

5 As announced in Budget 2018, eligible households will receive additional \$20 a year for 3 years, from 2019 to 2021. This will help households adjust to the carbon tax when it is implemented from 2019. On average, the increase in U-Save will cover the expected increase in electricity and gas expenses for HDB households arising from the introduction of the carbon tax.

For more information

6 For more information on the GST Voucher – U-Save, members of the public can call SP Group at 6671-7117, or email <u>customersupport@spgroup.com.sg</u>. More information on the GST Voucher can also be found at <u>www.gstvoucher.gov.sg</u>.

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About the GST Voucher

The permanent GST Voucher scheme was introduced by the Government in Budget 2012 to help lower-income Singaporeans. The GST Voucher is given in 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 GST Voucher can be found at <u>www.gstvoucher.gov.sg</u>.

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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