

Section B

Chapter 16: Emergency Alarm System

Emergency Alarm System (EAS)

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has provided/ installed two types of EAS for tenants living in its public housing estates –

1. EAS installed in Housing for Senior Citizens (HSC) units

EAS with panic alarm buttons is provided in each HSC unit, which is connected to the wardens' office and their quarters. In case of emergencies, the elderly may press one of these buttons to call the warden for assistance.

2. Grant for Emergency Alarm System (EAS Grant)

In May 1996, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) introduced the "Special Grant for Emergency Alarm System" whereby elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) recipients who have met the eligibility criteria stipulated by the SWD can obtain a special grant, on a reimbursement basis, to acquire any EAS service on the market to meet their needs.

To cater for the need of those elderly who are in need of EAS but do not qualify for, or are not currently receiving CSSA, the HA has, since September 1996, provided them with an EAS Grant to enable them to purchase any EAS on the market to meet their needs. From February 2021, the HA has extended the subsidy for EAS to cover mobile devices, including EAS mobile phones and watches, mobile app for smart phones and other products.

To qualify for the EAS Grant, applicants must meet the following criteria –

1. not receiving CSSA;
2. living alone or in household with all members aged 60 or above; and
3. satisfying one of the following conditions which took effect from 2 March 2000 -
 - (a) if aged 65 or above, having an income and asset not exceeding the prescribed limits detailed below; or
 - (b) if aged 60-64, having an income and asset not exceeding the prescribed limits detailed below and are certified by a public medical officer to be more than 50% disabled or suffering from such medical conditions which could develop life threatening conditions as to require immediate attention (medical certification for those receiving disability allowance from SWD for being 100% disabled or in need of constant attendance is not necessary).

The income and asset limits are based on the prevailing financial eligibility limits for the Normal Old Age Living Allowance (^{Note}) administered by the SWD, which are -

	Monthly Income Limits (with effect from 1 February 2025)	Asset Limits (with effect from 1 February 2025)
Single Person	\$10,770	\$406,000
Married Couple	\$16,440	\$616,000

The EAS Grant is given to eligible elderly on a reimbursement basis for a one-off installation cost/ service charge up to a maximum of \$2,500.

Subject to meeting the prevailing eligibility criteria, elderly persons living either alone or in household with all elderly members in interim housing and Rent Allowance for Elderly Scheme recipients are also offered the EAS Grant from 2 March 2000 and October 2001 respectively.

Note The income and assets limits for applicants and the relevant computation method are based on the prevailing limits and eligibility criteria for Old Age Living Allowance prescribed by SWD. Applicants may browse the relevant information on the SWD website: www.swd.gov.hk [Public Services> Social Security> Social Security Allowance Scheme: Application for Social Security Allowance Guidance Notes (Eligibility Criteria: Income and Assets Limits for Old Age Living Allowance applicants)], and the SWD hotline is 2343 2255.