

FAQs on Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) – With effect from January 2015

KiFAS

Question: When will the enhanced Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS) take effect?

Answer: The enhanced KiFAS will take effect from January 2015.

Eligibility for KiFAS

Question: What are the eligibility criteria for Kindergarten Fee Assistance Scheme (KiFAS)?

Answer:

- (i) The child must be a Singapore Citizen.
- (ii) The child is enrolled in kindergartens operated by Anchor Operators (AOPs, e.g. PCF kindergarten) or the Ministry of Education (MOE kindergarten).
- (iii) The gross monthly household income is \$6,000 or below and/or for larger families, the per capita income is \$1,500 and below.

Question: Is my adopted child eligible for KiFAS?

Answer: As long as there is an Adoption Order, birth certificate of the child with you as the parent, and the child is a Singapore Citizen, he/she will be eligible for KiFAS, subject to the other eligibility criteria.

Question: I am a non-Singapore citizen (PR or foreigner) parent. Will my Singapore citizen child be eligible for KiFAS?

Answer: If your child is a Singapore Citizen and the other eligibility criteria are met, your child will be eligible for KiFAS.

Application for KiFAS

Computation of KiFAS based on gross monthly household income

Question: How will you determine my gross monthly household income?

Answer: For applicants who are salaried employees, the monthly household income will be based on the average monthly income received over the last available 12 month period, including bonuses and allowances. This will be derived by checking with the CPF Board upon receiving applicant's consent.

For applicants who are salaried employees but do not have any CPF contribution, he / she will need to furnish us with latest pay slip, appointment letter indicating gross monthly income or employer's income certification letter.

For applicants who are self-employed or unemployed, the following documents listed in Table 1 may be provided as proof of employment status and personal income.

Table 1: List of documents for KiFAS application

| Nationality | Without CPF contribution | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| | Employee | Self-Employed | Unemployed |
| Applicant who is a Singaporean | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay slip 2. Appointment letter indicating gross monthly income within 4 months of date of KiFAS application 3. Employer's income certification letter | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Latest Notice of Assessment 2. Statement from clients / customers stating nature of work, number of hours of work and monthly income from work | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student card 2. Letter of course acceptance from Educational Institution indicating course duration 3. Proof of employment search or assistance from CDC 4. Letter from employer on last day of service dated within 4 months of date of KiFAS application 5. Retrenchment letter dated within 4 months of date of KiFAS application |
| Spouses who are Foreigners or Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR) | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Long Term Visit Pass (LTVP) card 2. Student card 3. Letter of course acceptance from Educational Institution indicating course duration 4. Proof of employment search 5. Letter from employer on last day of service dated within 4 months of date of KiFAS application 6. Retrenchment letter dated within 4 months of date of KiFAS application |

Note:

1. The above list is not exhaustive. If you have other supporting documents not listed above, you may write in to Contact@ECDA.gov.sg for clarification.
2. In absence of the above supporting documents, applicant must provide a Statutory Declaration (SD) on their employment status and gross monthly household income (as applicable).
3. Applicant may make the SD by approaching
 - i. kindergartens operated by Anchor Operators (e.g. PCF kindergartens) or the Ministry of Education (MOE kindergartens) at no cost; or
 - ii. any Commissioner for Oaths in Singapore listed in this website – <http://www.conp.sg/co-np-directory-listing> or at the Commissioner for Oaths Office of the Supreme Court at a cost of \$20.

Computation of KiFAS based on Per Capita Income (PCI)

Question: When will the computation of KiFAS based on PCI be applicable?

Answer: KiFAS computation using PCI will be used when there are 5 or more family members living in the same household including more than 2 dependents.

Question: Who are the family members?

Answer: Family members must be related by blood, marriage and/or legal adoption and living in the same residential address as reflected on the NRIC of the KiFAS applicant.

Question: Who are the dependents?

Answer: Dependents refer to persons living in the same household as the KiFAS applicant and who are not earning an income.

Question: How is Per Capita Income (PCI) computed?

Answer:
$$\text{PCI} = \frac{\text{Total gross monthly household income of family members}}{\text{Number of family members living in the same household}}$$

KiFAS Rates

Question: How much fee assistance can I hope to receive under KiFAS?

Answer: The actual amount of KiFAS that a family will receive depends on the family's income level and the actual kindergarten fees charged.

Parents may be eligible for KiFAS up to 99% of the monthly kindergarten fees or up to \$170 (inclusive of GST).

| Gross Monthly Household Income (HHI) | Gross Monthly Per Capita Income (PCI) | Maximum % of Fee Assistance up to | Maximum Fee Assistance up to (inclusive of GST) |
|---|--|--|--|
| \$2,500 and below | \$625 and below | 99% | \$170 |
| \$2,501 - \$3,000 | \$626 - \$750 | 98% | \$165 |
| \$3,001 - \$3,500 | \$751 - \$875 | 90% | \$150 |
| \$3,501 - \$4,000 | \$876 - \$1,000 | 75% | \$130 |
| \$4,001 - \$4,500 | \$1,001 - \$1,125 | 50% | \$85 |
| \$4,501 - \$5,000 | \$1,126 - \$1,250 | 35% | \$60 |
| \$5,001 - \$6,000 | \$1,251 - \$1,500 | 20% | \$35 |

KiFAS Application

Question: How do I apply for KiFAS?

Answer: KiFAS application forms will be provided to you through your AOPs and MOE kindergartens.

Changes to Information Provided in KiFAS Application

Household income

Question: What if my income level changes after I have applied for KiFAS? Will the KiFAS amounts I qualify for change?

Answer: You may submit a new KiFAS application to the kindergarten at any point in time if your household's financial circumstances have changed.

Question: Will my income be assessed on a yearly basis?

Answer: Your income data will be re-verified every 2 years to determine your KiFAS eligibility and allotment.

Programme Type

Question: What do I need to do if there is a change in my child's programme?

Answer: Your Kindergarten operator will inform ECDA and the amount of KiFAS will be re-computed automatically and adjusted where applicable.

Question: What do I need to do if I want to transfer my child to a new kindergarten?

Answer: You may apply for KiFAS when your child enrolls in another AOP or MOE kindergarten.

Financial Assistance

Question: I am currently under the Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme. Will I continue to receive KiFAS?

Answer: Your existing financial assistance will be subsumed into the enhanced KiFAS from January 2015. Your eligibility will be re-assessed when you submit a KiFAS application in July 2014 to determine your eligibility for KiFAS in 2015.

Question: Is there any financial assistance for lower-income families who may not be able to cope even after receiving KiFAS?

Answer: Families requiring further financial assistance can approach the Social Service Office (SSO) for assistance. The nearest SSO based on your residential address can be found at <http://app.msf.gov.sg/dfcs/sso/default.aspx>.