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MEDIA RELEASE

**NEW \$15 MILLION PROTECTION PRACTITIONERS CARE FUND
TO BE LAUNCHED FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2026**

1 The National Council of Social Service (NCSS) will establish a new \$15 million Protection Practitioners Care Fund (“Care Fund”) from 1 February 2026 to help social service agencies (SSAs) build more supportive work environments. This Care Fund was mentioned by the Minister for Social Services Integration, Mr Desmond Lee, in Parliament on 5 November 2025.

2 Protection work comes with a heavy emotional burden. Protection practitioners are regularly exposed to trauma during the course of their work and face distinctive pressures in dealing with urgent and high-risk cases daily. We thank SSAs such as Montfort Care, TRANS Family Services, Allkin Singapore, and Casa Raudha, who shared ideas to support their protection practitioners, such as psychological support, retreat programmes, and structured mentorship. These have helped to shape the design of the Care Fund, which is expected to benefit over 1,000 protection practitioners.

3 SSAs can apply to the Care Fund from 1 February 2026 by visiting NCSS’s website. The full eligibility criteria can be found in Annex A.

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ISSUED BY
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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TRANSLATION GLOSSARY

English	Chinese	Malay	Tamil
Protection Practitioners Care Fund	保护人员关怀基金	Dana Penjagaan Pengamal Perlindungan	சமுதாயப் பாதுகாப்புத் தொழிலர் பரிவு நிதி

ANNEX A

DETAILS OF THE PROTECTION PRACTITIONERS CARE FUND

- SSAs can tap on the Protection Practitioners Care Fund to (i) implement well-being initiatives, such as psychological support for staff and structured mentoring, and (ii) make alternative manpower arrangements so that they can provide their practitioners with up to two weeks of wellness leave.

(i) Funding for SSA-initiated well-being initiatives.

SSAs can tap on funding to provide for well-being initiatives for their protection practitioners. Well-being initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Mental health support e.g. therapy, counselling, trauma-informed care, reflective practice sessions, mindfulness and meditation workshops
- Coaching and mentorship
- Physical wellness, e.g. wellness checks, team activities
- Retreat programmes
- Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), i.e counselling services for employees

(ii) Wellness leave.

SSAs can also apply to tap on the Care Fund to make alternative manpower arrangements, such as hiring supplementary manpower, so that they can offer their eligible protection practitioners with up to two weeks of wellness leave on a discretionary basis. Protection practitioners with at least two years of protection-related experience working in services listed at the **Eligibility Criteria** are eligible.

• Eligibility Criteria:

Protection Practitioners must be social service professionals working in social service agencies funded by MSF, who carry out services (including intake, triage, and case management services) that support the safety and well-being of individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. This includes social workers, case workers, social work associates, care staff, and their supervisors in these agencies:

- Protection Specialist Centres
- Integrated Services for Individual and Family Protection Specialist Centre
- Child Protection Specialist Centres
- Children's Homes
- Children Disability Homes
- Fostering Agencies
- Safe & Strong Families Programmes
- Crisis Shelters
- Family Service Centres

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ncss.gov.sg/grants/people-development/protection-practitioners-care-fund>