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Singapore to boost community care sector

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The Ministry of Health will inject close to S$12 million over the next four years into the community care sector to attract and develop talent.

The funds will be channelled to a scholarship scheme administered by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) called the Community Care Manpower Development Award (CCMDA), which brings together four existing scholarships offered by AIC.

Previously, only those looking to join the sector in the fields of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and nursing could apply for an AIC scholarship. Under CCMDA, applicants can now choose other disciplines such as social work and speech therapy. Those currently working in the sector, including general practitioners, can also apply.

The scheme covers short courses and formal academic programmes. Those under the scheme will also have the opportunity to be attached to healthcare and community care facilities both in Singapore and overseas.

Awardees will have the cost of their training co-funded by CCMDA and their hiring organisation, and will serve a bond after they complete their training.