

HAWKERS SUCCESSION SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who are in the HSS advisory panel?

The 10-member independent advisory panel comprises both veteran and young hawkers, as well as culinary chefs, hawker centre operators and training partners.

2. What are the eligibility criteria for retiring veteran hawkers to participate in the HSS pilot? How would the HSS benefit the veteran hawkers?

To be eligible for HSS, the retiring veteran hawkers should have at least 15 years of experience in operating cooked food stalls in hawker centres. The scheme will benefit veteran hawkers who would like to retire but face difficulties finding suitable successors to continue their legacies. For non-subsidised veteran hawkers, the current policy, limiting their assignment of stalls to family members or relatives only, will be relaxed. For subsidised veteran hawkers, they will still be offered the ex-gratia payment, which is currently only given out to them when they handover their stalls to NEA upon retirement and exit the trade. In addition, the veteran hawkers will be paid a nominal stipend for his or her effort and time in guiding the aspiring hawker during the apprenticeship and mentorship phases under the scheme.

Interest veteran hawkers can register their interest at <https://www.nea.gov.sg/hawkers-succession-scheme>.

3. Does NEA intend to buy over the recipes of the veteran hawkers?

The HSS is not intended to replace commercial arrangements as for hawker businesses with compelling commercial value, they will not have a shortage of suitors to buy over their recipes and brands.

4. What is the amount of stipend that veteran hawkers will receive from NEA under the HSS?

The veteran hawker will be paid a nominal stipend of \$1,500 per month for the 3-month apprenticeship period and \$500 per month for the 2-month mentorship period (optional), for his or her effort and time in guiding the successor during the apprenticeship and mentorship phases under the scheme.

5. What is the amount of the ex-gratia payment that a subsidised stallholder can expect to receive when returning his/her stall to NEA?

A one-off ex-gratia payment of \$23,000 will be given out to a subsidised cooked food stallholder when he or she returns his or her stall to NEA and exits the trade.

6. Can the successor have a business partner or multiple stallholders to jointly manage the stall?

The stall must be personally operated by the registered stallholder. If the successor chooses to have a business partner to jointly manage the stall, the business partner will have to be registered with NEA as a hawker assistant.

7. What is the monthly rental that the successor will have to pay, after he or she takes over the stall from the veteran hawker?

The successor will pay assessed market rent to NEA.

8. Apart from the rental, what are the other costs involved that the successor would have to pay?

There are operational costs borne by all stallholders such as Service and Conservancy Charges (S&CC), table-cleaning fees and dish-washing fees (where applicable) and utilities. Other upfront costs are rental deposit (which is refundable) and hawker licence fees.

9. Can the successor transfer the stall, or nominate a family member to run the stall, post-transfer from the veteran hawker?

As HSS is intended for aspiring successors to succeed and carry on the veteran hawkers' business and signature dishes, the successor is not allowed to transfer the stall for the first 3 years. This is also in line with the key condition of HSS, under which the successor should not change the veteran hawker's signature dishes and stall name for the first 3 years upon taking over.

Culinary Skill Test and Interview

10. How would the culinary skill test and interview be conducted? When and where would it be held?

NEA will get in touch with the shortlisted applicants and arrange for a culinary skill test and interview. At the session, applicants would be required to demonstrate their culinary skills to a food tasting panel, the veteran hawker and NEA. NEA would share more information on the date and venue of the culinary skill test and interview with shortlisted applicants.

11. After the culinary skill test and interview, how long will NEA take to notify the applicant if he or she is successful for the apprenticeship under HSS?

Successful applicants who passed the culinary skill test and interview will be notified in two to four weeks' time. NEA will engage successful applicants to arrange for the apprenticeship.