

Subject: Regulations of Urban Minimum Living Program

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Regulations of the Urban Minimum Living Program have already been approved by the 21st standing board meeting of the State council of China. The program will begin on the first of October 1999.

Premier Zhu Rongji

September 28th 1999

Urban Residents Minimum Living Standard Regulations

1. These regulations have been drafted in order to standardise the guaranteed minimum income system of urban residents and guarantee their basic living conditions.
2. The local government will provide basic material aid to any non-agricultural registered urban resident and any family living together where all the family member's income is below the minimum living standard, ie. the total monetary and material income of all family members, including monies received by those receiving statutory financial aid is lower than the national average.
3. Urban residents guaranteed minimum income system abides by the principle of guaranteeing basic needs, combining social security and national insurance, and encouraging residents to "self help".
4. The minimum living standards system for urban residents will implement a "responsibility system" at all levels of government. The Administrative Department of the People's Government above county level are responsible for the administration and management of the Minimum Living Standard System in that area: this work is to be shared between statistics, pricing, personnel, auditing and labour and social security departments.

The Municipal government administration body, management offices and Local People's Government (listed below as Management Appraisal Body), are responsible for the actual management and appraisal of the Minimum Living Standards System. Resident committees under the instruction of the management appraisal body can take responsibility for the management of the Urban Minimum Living Standard Program. The State Council Administrative Department is responsible for the management of the Urban Minimum Living Standard Program at national level.

5. Funds required by the Urban Minimum Living Standard Program: will be part of the Peoples' Government financial budget, included in social aid fund expenses. China encourages organisations and individuals to donate money to the Urban Minimum Living Standard Program, all of which will be channelled into local funds.
6. Urban Minimum Living Standard: this will be decided according to local costs for basic supplies of clothing, food and accommodation. Electricity, water and fuel costs will also be considered and education costs for minors is also included.

Inner-city Urban Minimum Living Standards: standards for residents in inner city and community areas will be set by the city government who will work in collaboration with finance, statistics and pricing departments.

When the Urban Minimum Living standard needs to be raised, regulations should be set according to the two previous clauses.

7. Urban minimum living benefit applicants: the head of a household should apply in writing to the local household registration office or local government. Relevant documents of proof are also required and the applicant should fill out an *Urban Minimum Living benefits permit* application form. The initial stages of application are to be dealt with by local government, all information and suggestions are to also be passed on to county government for approval.

Requirements for approval of Minimum Living benefits: investigation of the applicant's economic situation can be carried out by investigation of accounts, neighbourhood interviews or through written proof. Related parties to the applicant will be interviewed and asked to provide relevant information.