

Second batch of Child Development Fund projects to start

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) invites interested non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to submit proposals for operating the second batch of the Child Development Fund (CDF) projects to be launched in the first half of 2010.

A SWD's spokesman said, "The first batch of CDF pioneer projects, rolled out in December 2008, were well received and widely supported by different sectors of the community. The Government plans to roll out 15 second batch projects in the first half of 2010. We estimate that at least 1 500 children from a disadvantaged background will benefit."

The Government set up the \$300 million CDF to provide children from a disadvantaged background with more personal development opportunities, so as to reduce inter-generational poverty. CDF projects help participants draw up and implement their own development plans as well as develop an asset-building habit, thus preparing them for long-term development.

The spokesman said, "Eligible NGOs are welcome to submit proposals. The applicant must be a charitable organisation registered under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap 112), with a good track record in the provision of children and youth services in Hong Kong in the past five years."

"Selected NGOs are expected to start recruiting children for the projects in May 2010."

Application form and guidelines are available on the website of the Social Welfare Department (http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_whatsnew/). A briefing session for prospective applicants will be held on January 26 at the Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre.

The proposals, together with the duly completed application forms, should be submitted by hand to the Child Development Fund Office, Social Welfare Department, Room 942, 9/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, before 5 pm on February 26.

8 January 2010

ends

Background

To reduce inter-generational poverty, the Government accepted the recommendation of the former Commission on Poverty and set up the \$300 million CDF in April 2008 for promoting the longer-term development of children aged between 10 and 16 from a disadvantaged background through collaboration of the family, the private sector, the community and the Government.

CDF projects have three key components, namely personal development plans, mentorship programme and targeted savings. These components can help enhance the children's ability in managing resources and planning for their own future.

Each participating child will be assigned a personal mentor who is a volunteer. The child will also participate in training programmes provided by the operating NGOs, which cover topics such as self-awareness, personal development and financial management, etc. and seek to assist him in developing and implementing his personal development plan. The Government has set aside \$15,000 for each participating child for the provision of relevant training programmes.

The participating children will also take part in a two-year targeted savings programme. With the support of the business sector as well as individual donors, the operating NGOs will provide matching contribution for the targeted savings accumulated by the participating children. In addition, the Government will provide a special financial incentive of \$3,000 for each participating child when he has completed his two-year savings programme.

The first batch of seven CDF pioneer projects, which will last for three years, was rolled out by six operating NGOs in December 2008 in seven regions/districts, benefiting

a total of 750 children. We estimate that eventually at least 13 600 children will benefit from the CDF.