

Third batch of Child Development Fund projects to start

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is inviting interested non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to submit proposals for operating the third batch Child Development Fund (CDF) projects, which are to be launched in the second half of 2011, to provide children from a disadvantaged background with more personal development opportunities to reduce inter-generational poverty.

A spokesman for SWD said today (May 6), "The first two batches of CDF projects, rolled out in December 2008 and June 2010 respectively, were well received and widely supported by different sectors of the community. 2 270 children have benefited. The Government plans to roll out two more batches of projects for another 5 000 children in 2011-12."

"There will be 21 projects in the third batch to be rolled out in the second half of this year, providing at least 2 500 places. These projects will help participating children draw up and implement personal development plans as well as develop an asset-building habit, thus preparing them for long-term development."

The spokesman added, "NGOs are now invited to submit proposals to operate third batch CDF projects. The applicant must be a charitable organisation exempt from tax 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 participants for the projects in September 2011."

Application forms and guidelines are available on the website of SWD (http://www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_whatsnew/). A

briefing session for prospective applicants will be held on May 24 at the SWD Lady Trench Training Centre, Wan Chai.

All 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 June 15 2011.

6 May 2011

ends

Background

The Government accepted the recommendation of the former Commission on Poverty and set up the \$300 million CDF in April 2008. CDF aims at 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, thereby reducing inter-generational poverty. We estimate that eventually at least 13 600 children will benefit from CDF.

CDF projects are operated by NGOs and last for three years each. All projects have three key components, namely personal development plan, 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 operating NGOs will provide training programmes, which cover topics such as self-awareness, personal development and financial management, etc., to help participating children formulate personal development plans with specific targets (both short-term and long-term ones). The Government has set aside \$15,000 for the provision of relevant training programmes for each participating child.

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/she has completed his/her two-year savings programme. In the

third year of the project, the participating children will, under the guidance and supervision of the operating NGOs and mentors, use the savings (including the matching contribution and the special financial incentive) to implement their personal development plans.