

SWD invites proposals for seven CDF projects

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is inviting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to submit proposals for operating the third batch Child Development Fund (CDF) projects.

A spokesman for SWD said today (August 22), "There will be a total of 21 projects in the third batch and a number of NGOs have already been selected for operating 14 projects. We are now inviting interesting NGOs to submit proposals for the remaining seven projects, which will be implemented in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung (including Tseung Kwan O), Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing, Sha Tin as well as Yuen Long."

"The first two batches of CDF projects, rolled out in December 2008 and June 2010 respectively, have benefited 2 270 children. The third batch will be rolled out in the second half of this year, providing at least 2 500 places."

"CDF projects are operated by NGOs and last for three years each. Through the projects, CDF will help children from a disadvantaged background draw up and implement personal development plans as well as develop an asset-building habit, thus preparing them for long-term development."

"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."

"NGOs selected for operating these seven projects are expected to start recruiting participants for the projects in November. As for the 14 projects for which NGOs have been selected earlier, the recruitment of participants will start in September as planned."

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 August 30 at the Committee Rooms I - III, Queen Elizabeth Stadium, 18 Oi Kwan Road, 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 September 16.

22 August 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.

The first two batches of CDF projects, rolled out in December 2008 and June 2010 respectively, have benefited 2 270 children. The Government plans to roll out two more batches of projects for another 5 000 children in 2011-12. 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 each participating child for the provision of relevant training programmes.

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 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, 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.