

For discussion on
11 March 2019

Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services

Community Investment and Inclusion Fund

Purpose

In accordance with the suggestions from some Members, the Panel on Welfare Services will discuss the captioned matter at its meeting on 11 March 2019. This paper briefs on the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) for Members' reference.

Background

2. The Government announced in the 2001 Policy Address the setting up of the CIIF with an injection of \$300 million. As at to date, a total amount of \$800 million was injected into the Fund. Through implementing diversified social capital development projects in the community, the CIIF promotes reciprocity between the public and different sectors, and builds cross-sectoral collaborative platforms with a view to developing the social capital of mutual trust, social support networks, spirit of co-operation and social cohesion in the community, and enhancing mutual support among individuals, families and organisations so that our community can grow from strength to strength.

3. The Government established the CIIF Committee in 2002 to examine and approve applications to the Fund, and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the funded projects. The CIIF Committee is also tasked to advise the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on the most appropriate and effective means to facilitate the development of social capital in Hong Kong, as well as on all matters related to the administration of the CIIF.

Target groups of CIIF and the models of funded projects

4. Major categories and target groups of the CIIF-funded projects include child and family development, youth development, elderly support and empowerment, community capacity building, social integration (including ethnic minorities, new arrivals, persons with disabilities, etc.), healthcare (including mental and psychological health) and cross-generational integration. Among them, child and family development as well as community capacity building are the major categories. All non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private

organisations¹ are eligible to submit applications.

5. The CIIF-funded projects, operating in diversified models, aim to enhance the development of cross-sectoral partnership, with a view to bringing changes to the community. The CIIF projects also coordinate cross-sectoral efforts to enhance personal capacity and support network of the disadvantaged. Examples include –

- (a) introducing the “House Captain” system in housing estates, under which residents voluntarily serve as house captains to promote mutual-help and reciprocity and the building of neighbourhood support networks, with a view to promoting a sense of belonging to the districts among residents;
- (b) building social support networks for the elderly and their carers to support them to age in place in the community through “Medical-Welfare-Community” collaboration;
- (c) building cross-ethnic and cross-background support networks for ethnic minorities and new arrivals to foster social integration through “Community-Business-Government” collaboration; and
- (d) better utilising resources in the community for meeting school children’s needs for care and growth through “Community-Business-School” collaboration.

Evaluation studies on the CIIF

6. To assess comprehensively the effectiveness of the CIIF in promoting social capital development, the Labour and Welfare Bureau commissioned the University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University in 2006, as well as City University of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2012, to conduct two evaluation studies. The findings of these studies affirmed that the various collaboration models developed under the CIIF could effectively enhance capacity building of individuals, as well as promote cross-generational care, mutual help across different social strata and ethnic harmony, which are conducive to enhancing our community’s overall capacity.

7. Based on the findings and recommendations of the above two evaluation studies, the CIIF devised more evidence-based effectiveness assessments, namely, the “Social Capital Scale” and a set of questionnaire on “Sustainable

¹ Generally speaking, organisations should be registered under the laws of Hong Kong (e.g. the Companies Ordinance, the Societies Ordinance; or section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance).

Development of Social Capital”, for evaluating the effectiveness of social capital building and the sustainable development of CIIF-funded projects respectively.

Use of funding and implementation of projects

8. Since the establishment of the CIIF in 2002, a total of 28 batches of applications have been processed. As at December 2018, the CIIF has provided/committed funding of about \$562 million to 375 projects launched by 259 agencies/ service units. Among these projects, 75 projects are in operation/ will be launched soon. At present, the CIIF accepts three batches of applications every two years. Statistics on achievements of the funded projects as at end December 2018 are as follows –

- Engaged over 774 000 direct participants in the projects, including about 101 000 volunteers, and built up about 2 200 mutual support networks;
- About 39 000 participants had their roles transformed from recipients to volunteers/leaders, or from participants/volunteers to leaders/coordinators;
- Supported about 34 000 families;
- Mobilised about 9 800 collaborative partners, including those from the business sector, NGOs, the school sector, residents' associations, hospitals, District Councils and government departments;
- Assisted about 8 400 people in re-entering the labour market with confidence and capabilities enhanced;
- Established 112 self-support groups; and
- Funded projects spread in 18 districts with Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai having the most in number and Sham Shui Po the second, i.e. 51 and 37 respectively.

9. We are now processing the 29th batch of applications with the main theme “City in Sync with Kids” to encourage the establishment of community support networks among people from different sectors and background for improving resilience of children against adversities, with a view to bringing their abilities into full play for making contribution to the society. The vetting result is expected to be announced by the end of the first quarter of 2019.

Streamlining the application and project management procedures

10. The 2017 Policy Agenda promulgated the streamlining of the application and project management procedures of the CIIF to encourage more organisations, in particular those of a smaller scale, to apply for grants to implement diversified social capital development projects. After consulting organisations with CIIF-

funded projects and some organisations of smaller scale, on the principle of not compromising the vetting of applications and monitoring of project progress, we have, in November 2017, streamlined the application and reporting forms and project management procedures, enhanced the mechanism concerning the disbursement of grants, and at the same time provided more support for smaller organisations in terms of finance and identification of collaboration partners. The streamlined application and project management procedures not only facilitate smaller organisations to apply for funding, but also enable the CIIF to better leverage on the existing networks to bring about synergetic effects and to yield more innovative social capital models.

Regularising the Community Support Programme for New Public Rental Housing Estates (new PRHs)

11. The Government has always been concerned about the needs of residents of the newly completed PRH estates. Since the establishment of the CIIF in 2002, a total of 37 community support projects have been approved involving funding of \$86.5 million.

12. The Chief Executive announced in the 2018 Policy Address that we will regularise the community support programmes for new PRHs through the CIIF. To ensure the availability of adequate and appropriate services to assist the residents of new PRHs to establish support networks at the resident-intake of new PRHs, we will plan for the community network building projects in a proactive matter and provide funding through the CIIF, so as to assist residents and their families to adapt in the new community as soon as possible. Under this new initiative, the number of community support programmes for new PRHs to be funded will be subject to district needs and the number of tenants of new PRHs. There is no pre-set level of maximum funding for each project. The duration of funding for the projects would be “N+36 months”, in which “N” represents the time required for resident-intake of the new PRHs concerned, and “36 months” represent the maximum duration of approval. Application details concerning community support programmes for new PRHs will be announced later.

Promotion and Development

13. 2018 marked the 16th anniversary of the CIIF. With the theme “Social Capital as a Solution”, the CIIF Forum 2018 held on 18 December 2018 showcased to the public and stakeholders how the CIIF has converged cross-sectoral efforts to build a better community. Apart from the ongoing efforts on enhancing collaboration and engagement with various sectors, such as the business sector, we will in future engage with the school sector with a view to

promoting the understanding and the building of social capital in the sector.

Advice sought

14. Members are invited to note the above information on the CIIF.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
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