

Neighbourhood Mutual Help Programme 2026-27
New Arrivals from the Mainland and Ethnic Minorities

Invitation for Project Proposals

Objectives

The Neighbourhood Mutual Help Programme (“the Programme”) aims at promoting community harmony through facilitating the integration of New Arrivals from the Mainland and Ethnic Minorities into the local community. Projects funded by the Programme should achieve the policy objectives of community development under the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB). These policy objectives include –

- (a) To build up the capacity of the community;
- (b) To foster the spirit of mutual help in the community;
- (c) To address the needs of and to empower disadvantaged communities;
- (d) To enhance and promote community cohesion and harmony; and
- (e) To motivate community participation.

Project Theme

2. Projects under the Programme should provide community services mainly targeting at new arrivals from the Mainland (which may include two-way permit holders looking after their family members in Hong Kong) and/or Ethnic Minorities with the following objectives –

- (a) To provide timely services that suit the immediate needs of new arrivals and/or ethnic minorities; and
- (b) To facilitate the integration of new arrivals and/or ethnic minorities into the local community (including but not limited to enhancing understanding on the nation and Hong Kong and raising awareness of the sense of social responsibility through different means, e.g. introduction of the “One Country, Two Systems”, the Basic Law and Chinese traditional culture, etc.), with a view to fostering better community cohesion and harmony.

Project Duration and Scope of Funding

3. Duration of each approved project should be from 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2027. The maximum funding for each project is **\$800,000**. Successful applicants should use all the funding provided to meet the expenses incurred for the approved project during the project period.
4. In submitting applications and implementing the approved projects, applicants should refer to the permissible items of expenditure as set out at Annex A. In vetting the proposals, the estimated expenditure in staff costs and central administrative overheads would be taken into account.
5. Applicants should state clearly in their applications in case there is other confirmed or proposed source of funding support for the project. Other sources of government or public funding should not be included.

Application and Eligibility

6. Interested organisations who wish to apply for funding under the programme should submit applications (two hard copies and one soft copy) to the Home Affairs Department (HAD) (for the attention of Administrative Officer (2)) by **28 January 2026 (Wednesday)**. The application form is at Annex B. The application should contain the following information –

- (a) the name and background of the applicant;
- (b) the target district(s) and target group(s);
- (c) the project plan and implementation timetable;
- (d) the target output and outcome of the project (levels should be agreeable to HAD);
- (e) the budget of the project with an itemised breakdown;
- (f) other sources of funding support (e.g. proceeds from cash donations and fees charged for program activities) (see paragraph 5);
- (g) the cash flow projection throughout the funding period. The successful applicant needs to incur expenditure according to the budget as approved by HAD.;
- (h) staffing for the project (which should include at least one registered social worker); and
- (i) any other relevant information.

Assessment Procedure and Criteria

7. HAD would be responsible for the vetting and approval of proposals taking into account the amount of funds available. HAD would seek comments from the relevant District Officer(s) (DOs), the Social Welfare Department (including District Social Welfare Officers), HYAB and / or other Government bureaux / departments concerned on the proposals as appropriate.

8. The following criteria (with their respective weightings) will be used to assess the merits of the proposals –

- (a) the extent to which the project could address the objectives as set out in paragraph 2 above (35%);
- (b) whether the target outcome / output is practical and sustainable (25%);
- (c) whether the proposed budget is prudent, realistic and cost-effective (20%);
- (d) the relevant experience of the service provider in (i) the proposed service area; and (ii) organising or assisting in organising activities or programmes in response to or in support of government policies/measures (assessment will be based on the applicant's experience within three years of the application.) (20%); and
- (e) staffing complement should include at least one registered social worker.

9. The Programme will not be granted to any projects that in the reasonable opinion of HAD may –

- (a) incite hatred or ill-feeling towards the Central Authorities (i.e. the body of central power under the constitutional order established by the Constitution of the People's Republic of China), the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("the Government"), any particular personality or any group of persons;
- (b) cause embarrassment to the Central Authorities, the Government; or
- (c) be contrary to public policy or the interest of national security.

10. In addition, **no** funding will be provided under the Programme to –

- (a) any person who has engaged in, or is suspected by HAD to have engaged in or to be engaging in:
 - (i) any act or activity that constitutes, or is likely to constitute, an offence endangering national security under the law of the Hong

Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKNSL") ("Specified Offence"); or

(ii) any act or activity that is or may be contrary to the interest of national security,

(the acts and activities referred to in (i) and (ii) above are collectively referred to as "Prohibited Acts", and individually, "Prohibited Act"); or

(b) finance any project which involves, or may, in the reasonable opinion of HAD, involve commission of any Prohibited Act.

For the purpose of this Funding Guide and any agreement made between the Government and a grantee in relation to the grant of the Programme, any determination made by the HAD on whether an act or activity is likely to constitute a Specified Offence, or is or may be contrary to the interest of national security, is final and conclusive.

Evaluation

11. Progress Report and Final Report

11.1. To ensure that the funding of the Programme is used in accordance with the approved budget and purposes, successful applicants are required to submit a six-month progress report and a final evaluation report to HAD. The progress report shall be submitted within September 2026 and the final evaluation report shall be submitted within February 2027.

11.2. Failure to submit reports or prove the fulfilment of the agreed output / outcome requirements shall result in termination of project funding unless HAD is satisfied that reasonable grounds could be provided. HAD, with the assistance from DOs concerned as appropriate, will monitor the implementation of projects.

Reimbursement of funding

12. HAD will release funding to the organisations on an accountable basis. The organisation is required to submit the income and expenditure statement supported by a report of an agreed-upon procedures engagement conducted by a certified public accountant (practising) (CPA) or a corporate practice within the meaning of the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Chapter 50).

Notes to Applicants

13. The project should be non-profit making.

14. Projects should be district-based with the target district(s) and target group(s) clearly stated in the project proposals. The proposals should mainly be planned for the target group(s). Nonetheless, in the actual execution of the project, a flexibility of **up to 30%** of the actual number of targets served could be allowed for serving non-target beneficiaries. Successful applicants are required to report the number of target and non-target beneficiaries served in their reports as set out in paragraph 11 above.

15. In this exercise, only one project at most will be awarded in the same district.

16. HAD does not guarantee that all proposals submitted will be funded in whole or in part by the Programme.

17. The approved project should be organised according to the details specified in the application, as approved by HAD. Additional guidelines, if any, on operational and financial arrangements will be provided in the approval letter issued by HAD to the successful applicants. If the successful applicant wishes to make any changes to the project, it should apply in writing to HAD at least ten clear working days before the scheduled date of the activity. Otherwise, HAD reserves the right to withdraw the project funding.

18. All grantees are required to ensure that the name and logo of HAD, as well as the logo of “Government-funded programme” are displayed in all publicity materials of the Programme. However, in no circumstances shall the name and logos of the Government be used or misrepresented for any personal, political or commercial publicity or other purposes which may adversely affect the image of and/or cause any liabilities to the Central Authorities, the Government or HAD.

19. All funded organisations shall ensure that the various requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) are complied with when collecting the personal data of the participants in the course of implementation of the funded project.

20. The personal data provided in the proposals submitted by the applicants will be used for purposes related to the Programme.

21. Interested applicants should read this document and its Annexes carefully before submitting applications.

Safeguarding National Security

22. Every applicant organisations and grantee is regarded to have warranted and undertaken to the Government that –

- (a) it, and all its member(s), employee(s), agent(s), contractor(s) and co-organiser(s) (collectively, “Relevant Personnel”) shall comply with all applicable laws of the HKSAR (including the HKNSL);
- (b) neither it nor any of the Relevant Personnel shall commit any Prohibited Act;
- (c) no Prohibited Act will be committed in delivering or carrying out the project to which an application for the Programme or a grant of the Programme relates; and
- (d) it shall forthwith upon its becoming aware of commission of a Prohibited Act by any person, report the Prohibited Act to the Police and other relevant law enforcement agencies.

23. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Funding Guide and/or the agreement made between the Government and a grantee in relation to the grant of the Programme, the Government may at any time terminate the grant of the Programme provided to the grantee if –

- (a) the grantee or any of the Relevant Personnel commits any Prohibited Act;
- (b) HAD is of the reasonable opinion that any Prohibited Act has been or may be committed in the delivery or carrying out of the project funded

by the Programme;

- (c) HAD is of the reasonable opinion that it is contrary to the interest of national security to continue to provide the Programme or to continue to implement the project funded by the Programme;
- (d) HAD reasonably considers the termination to be necessary in order to protect the public interest (including public morals, public order or public safety) of the HKSAR; or
- (e) The Government may report any matter referred to in paragraph 22 (a) to (d) to the law enforcement agency /agencies at any time. The grantee and/or the Relevant Personnel concerned will be held accountable for all the liabilities or legal actions arisen there from.

24. The grantee is required to duly sign an undertaking in the Application Form (at Annex B) on safeguarding national security. Otherwise, the application will be considered invalid.

Enquiries

25. For enquiries, please call us at 2835 1543, fax to 2834 5103 or email to cdps@had.gov.hk.

Home Affairs Department
January 2026