

**P.A.T.H.S. to Adulthood : A Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme
(2009/10 to 2011/12 school years)**

Frequently Asked Questions

-- Application --

1. Can youth service organisations other than the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) rendering stationing school social work service apply for the funding to implement the Project?

As school social workers are seen to be in an advantageous position of having close working relationship with students, parents and school personnel, NGOs rendering stationing school social work service is considered a suitable implementer and applicant for funding. However, under special circumstances, schools and their serving NGOs, depending on the need and the agreement between them, may apply in written to The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT) to change the mode of funding. The letter with details on the reason(s) for the change and the proposed funding mode (c.c. to school/NGO concerned) can be submitted to Youth Section, Social Welfare Department (SWD) together with the completed application forms. HKJCCT will consider each case on individual merits and reply to the schools/NGOs concerned. If the funding is granted to the school, the school can cooperate with other youth service organisations to implement the Project.

2. Is the NGO rendering stationing school social work service the major applicant? Can the school and the NGO apply for implementing the Tier 1 Programme and the Tier 2 Programme separately?

In principle, the application for implementing the Tier 1 Programme and Tier 2 Programme is considered as a whole, to be submitted by the NGO rendering stationing school social work service in consultation with the school. If the application is approved, funding will be granted to the applicant NGO to implement the Project. The applicant NGO is expected to consult with the school concerned to work out an optimal plan on resource utilisation in meeting the needs of students. If necessary, the applicant NGO may provide a portion of the grant to the school to

implement the Tier 1 Programme.

Under special circumstances, schools and their serving NGOs, depending on the need and the agreement between them, may apply in written to HKJCCT to change the mode of funding. The letter with details on the reason(s) for the change and the proposed funding mode (c.c. to school/NGO concerned) can be submitted to Youth Section, SWD together with the completed application forms. Even if the grant is to be released separately, the school and the applicant NGO would still need to complete the application forms together and provide details on their division of labour in the implementation. HKJCCT will consider each case on individual merits and reply to the schools/NGOs concerned.

3. If the grant is released separately to the school and the applicant NGO, would the NGO be responsible for all the administrative work in implementing the Project at the school?

If the grant has to be released separately, the school and the NGO concerned should work out a mutually agreed plan on the roles and division of work in implementing the Project. In principle, if the school and NGO would implement Tier 1 and Tier 2 Programmes separately, they should be responsible for the preparation of the Claim Form, Income and Expenditure Statement and the Evaluation Reports of their respective Programmes. A copy of the Income and Expenditure Statement submitted by the NGO should be provided to the school principal concerned and the Evaluation Reports submitted by the NGO should be countersigned by the school principal concerned. To enhance efficiency, the applicant NGO could take up the coordination work and submit the required documents to HKJCCT on or before 30th September after each school year.

4. If the grant is applied to be released to the school only, what are the application procedures?

Please refer to Question 1 to 3 above. Upon discussion with the NGO concerned, if the school decides to be the only applicant for the funding, the school may apply in written to HKJCCT to change the funding mode. The letter (c.c. the NGO concerned) with details on the reason(s) for the

change and the proposed plans on the arrangement of project implementation, can be submitted to Youth Section, SWD together with the completed application forms. HKJCCT will consider each case on individual merits and reply to the school concerned. If the grant is released to the school, the school would be responsible for submitting the Claim Forms, Income and Expenditure Statement and Evaluation Reports.

- 5. Control schools began to implement Project P.A.T.H.S. in 2007/08 in the Full Implementation Phase. When will be the last year of the implementation of P.A.T.H.S. in control schools in the extension phase? Should control schools use the application forms of the Full Implementation Phase to apply for funding in 2009/10 school year?**

To evaluate the long term effect of Project P.A.T.H.S., control schools began to implement the project in 2007/08 school year. The last year of implementation for control schools will be 2012/13 school year. In 2009/10 school year, the maximum grant, funding mode and application procedures of the control schools will be the same as other schools, so that control schools can also benefit from the extension of Project.

- 6. The implementation of P.A.T.H.S. for students in different secondary levels would involve much manpower. If the applicant NGOs/ schools have difficulty in staff arrangement, can they apply for implementing Project P.A.T.H.S. in one secondary level only?**

The curriculum of P.A.T.H.S. for Secondary 1 to 3 was developed as a whole package to be implemented by stages, i.e., students participated in P.A.T.H.S. in Secondary 1 will proceed to participate in P.A.T.H.S. in Secondary 2 to consolidate their learning. We strongly encourage and hope that schools could join P.A.T.H.S. at all junior secondary levels. The funding support is calculated by the number of participating secondary levels. If necessary, applicant NGOs/schools can consider using the grant to enhance their manpower to assist in implementing the Project. Applicant NGOs/schools can contact SWD for enquiries and discussion on the possibility of joining the Project for all junior secondary levels. If the applicant NGOs/schools could only apply for a particular secondary level, application in written to HKJCCT is required. The letter with reasons of

the selective participation can be submitted to the Youth Section, SWD together with the completed application forms.

- 7. If the school has participated in Project P.A.T.H.S. but dropped out during the Full Implementation Phase, should it be classified as ‘participating schools’ or ‘newly joined schools’? If it is considered as ‘participating schools’, can the school apply for implementing P.A.T.H.S. at all 3 secondary levels in 2009/10 school year?**

The curriculum of P.A.T.H.S. for Secondary 1 to 3 was developed as a whole package to be implemented by stages, i.e. students participated in P.A.T.H.S. in Secondary 1 will proceed to participate in P.A.T.H.S. in Secondary 2 to consolidate their learning. As multi-faceted evaluations consistently showed that Project P.A.T.H.S. was beneficial to the positive development of the participants, we strongly encourage and hope that schools could join the Project in all secondary levels.

We understand that some schools applied for implementing Project P.A.T.H.S. in selective secondary levels, or dropped out from the Project because of various reasons. Considering these schools have experience to implement the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Programmes in particular secondary level(s), applicant NGOs/schools can apply in written to HKJCCT in this case. The letter can be attached to the completed application forms and submitted to the Youth Section, SWD. HKJCCT will consider each case on individual merits and reply to the schools/NGOs concerned. If the schools have not joined the Project in particular secondary level(s), teachers/social workers should be arranged to receive the training conducted by the Research Team.

- 8. Refer to Question 7, can newly joined schools apply to implement Project P.A.T.H.S. in all 3 secondary levels in 2009/10 school year?**

As explained above, the curriculum of P.A.T.H.S. for Secondary 1 to 3 was developed as a whole package to be implemented by stages. We hope that newly joined schools could implement Project P.A.T.H.S. according to the proposed implementation schedule. In principle, newly joined schools can only apply for implementing P.A.T.H.S. in Secondary One in 2009/10

school year. However, if there are special reasons or sufficient teachers and social workers trained by the Research Team to implement the Project for quality assurance, the applicant NGOs/schools may apply in written to HKJCCT. The letter can be attached to the completed application forms and submitted to the Youth Section, SWD. HKJCCT will consider each case on individual merits and reply to the schools/NGOs concerned.

9. If a school joins the Project in the first year, can it withdraw in the next year?

Participation in this Project is voluntary. Nevertheless, multi-faceted evaluations consistently showed that Project P.A.T.H.S. was beneficial to the positive development of the participants. Applicant NGO/schools are strongly encouraged and advised to complete the programme according to the implementation schedule of the Project, and integrate the Tier 1 Programme into their school curriculum for junior secondary levels, with school-based adaptation to the school's culture and the students' needs, hence facilitating the holistic and healthy development of young people. The implementation schedule of the Project is as follow:

	School Year		
	Sept 2009 – Aug 2010	Sept 2010 - Aug 2011	Sept 2011 – Aug 2012
Participating schools	Secondary 1, Secondary 2 & Secondary 3	Secondary 1, Secondary 2 & Secondary 3	Secondary 1, Secondary 2 & Secondary 3
Newly joined schools	Secondary 1	Secondary 1 & Secondary 2	Secondary 1, Secondary 2 & Secondary 3

10. In 2009/10 to 2011/12 school years, is it necessary to submit application for each secondary level every year? Does an approved application / proposal for Secondary One mean automatic approval for Secondary Two and Secondary Three levels?

As the needs of students of each level and the situation of the school in each school year are different, it is necessary to submit application for

each level in each year. Depending on the needs of the students and the schools, it is possible that the same programme be proposed for different schools over different years.

Applicant NGOs/schools are encouraged to implement a specific programme over time to consolidate practice experience and to accumulate evidence on the programme effects. If the proposal on the Tier 2 Programme is basically the same as the one approved in previous year for the same school, applicant NGOs/schools are only required to provide new information of the proposal, if any. For details, please refer to the Brochure and Guidance Notes on Grant Application, as well as “application method and forms” on this webpage.

Normally speaking, an approved application for Secondary One will likely be supported at Secondary Two and Secondary Three.

- 11. According to the proposed training schedule, the training for teachers and social workers for each new school year will be held in May to October. However, the applicants will be informed of the application results in August of each year. Does it mean that some colleagues will receive training before they get to know the results of the application? And, does it imply that all the applications will be approved?**

All schools are welcome to participate in the Project P.A.T.H.S., and all applications will be vetted and processed on the basis that each proposal must meet the minimal threshold quality standard. Substandard proposals would need to be refined and the Research Team would provide the necessary support for the applicant NGOs/schools in the process. Under normal circumstances, no application will be rejected.

As the vetting process will take time in view of the huge number of applications involved, the training programmes and vetting procedures will take place in parallel.

- 12. Whether it is a must for applicants to implement both Tier 1 and Tier 2 Programmes? Can they choose to implement the Tier 1 Programme only?**

Participating NGOs and schools (except special schools) must implement

both Tier 1 and Tier 2 Programmes.

- 13. While the admission of Secondary One students will not take place before the start of new school year in September, applicant NGOs and schools are required to submit applications for this cohort in the beginning of the year. How can the needs of these students be incorporated in the proposal ?**

Generally speaking, teachers and social workers should have certain knowledge and understanding about the general needs of the students. Based on their experiences, unique situation of the school and other relevant information, they should be able to draw up a good proposal for the Tier 2 Programme.

- 14. Is it necessary for all students selected for Tier 2 Programme to participate in the same activities? Can they participate in different activities?**

The most important consideration is whether the proposed arrangements are reasonable and the proposed activities can achieve the objectives of the Project. As needs of students vary, the applicant NGOs/schools may propose different activities to meet their needs.

- 15. Can the applicant change the choice of curriculum (i.e., 10-hour core programme vs. 20-hour full programme)?**

Generally speaking, once a school chooses the mode of programme, the mode should not be changed because any change would seriously affect the evaluation of the programme. Nevertheless, if such need arises, schools are strongly recommended to discuss with the SWD prior to the change, and submit the “Supplementary Application Form – Change of Proposal Content” which can be downloaded from this website.

- 16. Can the applicant revise the content of the Tier 2 Programme after submitting the proposal?**

In case the applicant would like to revise the content of the Tier 2

Programme after submitting the proposal, the applicant should first consult the SWD by providing description of the proposed changes and justifications prior to their submission of the “Supplementary Application Form – Change of Proposal Content” which can be downloaded from this website.

17. Does a participating special school need to submit application proposals for each academic level in each year?

Yes. Depending on the nature and needs of the students, special schools with students of normal intelligence and adopting mainstream curriculum will normally run the Tier 1 Programme only. HKJCCT will invite application and interested special schools are required to submit application for respective forms to the Education Bureau (EDB) on a yearly basis. For more information, please refer to Education Bureau’s webpage on P.A.T.H.S. (special schools) at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/index.aspx?nodeid=5571&langno=1>.

18. Can the approval of application be given before June so as to facilitate schools working out year plan and NGOs recruiting additional manpower for implementing P.A.T.H.S. if necessary?

Basically, all participating schools are welcome to join the Project P.A.T.H.S. and thus their application proposals are accepted-in-principle. Any sub-standard proposals would be required to be refined to meet the minimal threshold quality standard and the Research Team would provide necessary support for the applicant NGOs/schools in the process.