

Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (PFD)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 What is the objective of the PFD?

A1 The PFD is an one-off grant from the Government to promote the development of tripartite social partnership comprising of the welfare sector, the business community and Government, and encouraging business corporations to take part in helping the disadvantaged.

The Fund aims to incentivise the welfare sector to expand their network in seeking and securing corporate participation, and to encourage the business sector to take up more social responsibility for creating a cohesive, harmonious and caring society.

Q2 Who can apply?

A2 All bona-fide charitable welfare NGOs having tax-exempted status under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) can apply for the PFD.

Q3 Can a tax-exempted NGO not within the welfare sector, e.g. environmental protection group, apply for the PFD for implementation of welfare related projects?

A3 As the PFD is earmarked for the welfare sector to promote tripartite social partnership, it is the Government's intention that only applications from NGOs, which are engaged in welfare activities as stated in their constitutions, will be accepted.

Q4 What are the criteria for eligible proposals?

A4 Eligible proposals must have the following features:

- (a) the Proposal should be an initiative in support of the Government's welfare policy but currently not receiving funding support from the Government in any form (e.g. being supported under a

“Funding and Service Agreement” with the Social Welfare Department (SWD), being a service contract awarded by SWD, or funded by any public funds such as the Lotteries Fund, the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, and the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme);

- (b) the initiative should be delivered in Hong Kong to provide services and activities which would benefit directly the welfare of the underprivileged groups such as people with disability, elderly people with inadequate social support, children from deprived families, victims of family violence/abuse, etc.;
- (c) donation should be made by registered business corporations operating business in Hong Kong or charitable trusts/foundations which are established and managed by such business corporations. Donations from professional associations and religious bodies, contributions from charitable trusts/foundations not established and managed by the business corporations (or without source of funding from business corporations) and funds under the management of government departments/public bodies will not be accepted;
- (d) the Proposal should have business corporation’s donation in cash, in kind or a combination of the two. Contribution in service is encouraged but is not matched by the Fund because this may affect the development of corporate volunteering work;
- (e) the business donation for the Proposal should be obtained within a year before the Seventh Round Application, i.e. on or after 1 September 2010. This is to encourage the formation of more partnerships between welfare NGOs and business corporations, which is the prime objective of the Fund. The welfare NGO applicant has to confirm the committed business contribution for the Proposal in the application;
- (f) the Proposal or any part of the programme seeking a matching grant from the Fund should not have been started before the approval of the Fund;
- (g) the Proposal should not include self-financing projects, as they are already operating in a cost recovery mode through fee charging; and
- (h) any requirement from the business corporations on their donation must not be in conflict with the objectives and guidelines of the Fund. Donations should not come from corporations running

business in connection with smoking.

Q5 Will there be priority for projects with specific nature?

A5 Priority consideration will be given to applications which

- (i) are in pursuit of 4 “Es”, namely Enhancement of quality of life, Employment/skills development, Empowerment and Exclusion prevention;
- (ii) are with promising sustainability of social partnerships with business corporations;
- (iii) are comprising elements of early intervention with preventive measures targeting a social problem; and
- (iv) can demonstrate the initiatives of the welfare NGO in rendering appropriate services to meet the changing needs of the target groups and expend their social partnership.

Q6 Will there be any projects given to low priority in assessing applications?

A6 Low priority will be given to project proposals applying for funding to upgrade facilities and/or purchase of equipment, or the related proportions of funding applied be heavily cut so that PFD could benefit the disadvantaged more directly.

Also, repeated application with similar proposal or programme contents previously approved may not be considered, unless a new service component, which may include new service elements, new service scope, new target clientele, or new geographic coverage, has been added.

Q7 Why is the project proposal targeted only at the disadvantaged group?

A7 The \$200 million grant earmarked in the 2004-05 Budget is for encouraging the development of tripartite social partnership and encouraging corporations take part in helping the disadvantaged. Therefore, we expect the project proposals should bring direct benefit to the disadvantaged groups.

Q8 Is there any minimum requirement on business contribution?

A8 There is no minimum requirement for business contribution on the PFD. Any amount of contribution in cash and in kind are welcome.

Q9 What is the interpretation of “sustainability of the projects”?

A9 We would like PFD to pave the way for future co-operation between NGOs and business corporations after its exhaustion. In this connection, NGOs are expected to provide, as part of their proposal, plans on how to sustain partnership with the business corporations in serving the disadvantaged. The plan may involve modification of the original proposal, with possibly different contributions from the NGO and the business corporation.

Examples may include inviting continuous contribution from the business corporation after the exhaustion of funding support from the PFD to carry on with the proposal or to implement other new initiatives, involving the business corporation as a corporate volunteer, or plans for securing ongoing donations from the business sector, etc.

Q10 How does the PFD match with the business contribution?

A10 For simplicity in administration and implementation, it is SWD’s intention to maintain a dollar-to-dollar match for all contributions in cash. Contributions in kind would be translated into monetary value for matching purpose.

Q11 What is the mechanism for determining the price level of corporate donation?

A11 For contributions in cash, the value should be confirmed by business corporations in terms of Hong Kong Dollar.

For contributions in kind, except used (not brand new) items which will not be counted, SWD will put in place measures to ensure that a reasonable

price level is determined for such contributions, i.e.

- reference to the Government's Price List of Common Furniture and Equipment;
- provision of written quotations in accordance with the Lotteries Fund Manual if the donated items are not on that List; and
- justifications on the value if the donated items are of unique value.

These measures can be further refined in the light of actual experience.

Q12 What are the types of corporate contribution, either in cash and in kind, that will be eligible for the PFD?

A12 For contributions in cash, items may include, but not limit to, cash donation, project funding, sponsorships, financial awards, corporate donation etc.

For contributions in kind, items may include, but not limit to, office equipment, tools and supplies, product, vehicles, and office space, etc. Used (not brand new) items would not be counted for the PFD.

Q13 Can a project receive contribution from more than one business corporation?

A13 There is no limitation on the number of donor business corporation on a project proposal.

Q14 Business corporations always encourage their professional staff to participate in community services. Can their contribution in service be counted as business corporations' contribution for the PFD?

A14 In Seventh Round application, contribution in service is encouraged but is not matched by the Fund because this may affect the development of corporate volunteering work.

Q15 How can the vetting process be maintained fair and transparent?

A15 The Advisory Committee, comprising non-official members from the welfare, business and academic sectors, will advise on the implementation of the grant and the eligibility of the project proposals. Approved projects will be uploaded onto the PFD webpage for public scrutiny.

Q16 What is the mechanism to ensure that the PFD is used for the designated purpose?

A16 As the grant is a public fund, SWD has to undertake a monitoring role. To strike a pragmatic balance between public accountability and administrative simplicity, applicant NGOs will be required to submit final audited financial statements to account for the usage of the grant to SWD, and to certify that the grant has been used for the purposes as specified in the applications. During the project implementation, members of the Advisory Committee and/or staff of SWD may pay visits to keep track of the progress of the projects. Upon the project completion, NGOs are also required to furnish a concise evaluation report of each project.

Q17 How can NGOs prove that project proposals have secured business contributions?

A17 NGOs have to provide written confirmation from corporate partners of their amount of contributions/donations together with the applications.

Q18 Is there any simplified application form for application involving matching grant in smaller amount?

A18 There is a new application form “application involving matching grant at \$100,000 or below” for use in the Seventh Round Application. Both Application Forms for applications involving matching grant at “\$100,000 or below” and “over \$100,000” can be downloaded from SWD’s website.

Q19 Would there be an enquiry hotline for answering NGOs' enquiries on the application and implementation of the PFD?

A19 Designated telephone line (Phone no.: 2892 5104 / 2892 5249) has been set up for answering enquiries from the public concerning the application and implementation of the PFD.

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