Co-Prosper HK – Welfare Projects Matching Platform

Application Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Application Guidelines

Objective

The Co-Prosper HK – Welfare Projects Matching Platform (hereinafter referred to as the "Platform") is established by the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation to serve as a bridge to facilitate bilateral and voluntary matching between funders (the business sector) and project proponents (non-governmental organisations), with the aim of jointly implementing social welfare service projects. The collaboration and specific arrangements must be agreed upon and negotiated independently by both parties. The Application Guidelines set out the relevant requirements for project proponents to submit their project proposals.

Application Period

First-round Matching Application Period: **From 20 October 2026 to 29 November 2026**

Applications must be submitted via the Platform's electronic application form on or before the deadline. The submission time recorded by the electronic application system shall be definitive. Late submissions will not be considered, and no extensions will be granted.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant organisations must fall into at least one of the following categories:

1. Charitable institutions or trusts exempt from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112);
2. Social enterprises with at least one year of operational experience, including those registered in the SE Directory maintained by the HKCSS Social Enterprise Business Centre, or certified by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Social Enterprises; or
3. Other organisations that have received subvention from the Social Welfare Department within the past three years.

Remarks: Individuals, and groups that do not satisfy the above eligibility criteria will not be accepted. Applicant organisation must be legally registered entities in Hong Kong and comply with all applicable laws of Hong Kong. Both the organisation and the proposed project must comply with all applicable laws of Hong Kong. In the event of any non-compliance or breach of law, the Government may terminate the processing of the relevant application and may also terminate any collaboration that has commenced under the Matching Platform.

Basic Project Requirements

1. **Target Groups:** The project must serve at least one specified target group: Subdivided unit households, Single-parent households, All-elderly households, and Carers.
2. **Project Themes:** The project must align with one or more of the following themes: Respite support; Emotional and health support; Improvement of living environment and safety enhancement; Child care support; Neighbourhood mutual support; Nutrition and dietary support; Digital inclusion and information empowerment; Applications of gerontechnology and care technology; and Active ageing.
3. **Project Category:**

    - Existing targeted poverty alleviation schemes
    - Spin-off projects based on existing targeted poverty alleviation schemes
    - Brand-new projects

<u>Overview of Existing Targeted Poverty Alleviation Schemes</u>

- Strive and Rise Programme

  It focuses on supporting Secondary 1 to Secondary 4 students from underprivileged families (particularly those living in subdivided units) and pairs them with mentors to provide personal development planning and financial support, broaden their horizons and foster a positive outlook on life. The programme offers one year of intensive basic training, after which mentees automatically become members of the Alumni Association.

- Pilot Programme on Community Living Room

  It focuses on supporting households living in subdivided units (especially those with children) by providing them with facilities such as shared living rooms, kitchens or food preparation areas, dining rooms, study spaces for students, self-service washers and dryers so as to expand their living space and social networks, improve their quality of life, and enhance their sense of belonging to the community.

- School-based After School Care Service Scheme

  It focuses on supporting underprivileged families (particularly single-parent families). Schools provide the venues, and non-governmental organisations operate school-based after-school care services. This enables primary students in need to remain at school after class to receive care and learning support in a safe and familiar environment, while simultaneously relieving parental caregiving pressure and releasing workforce potential. The scheme will be regularised starting from the 2027/28 academic year.

- District Services and Community Care Teams — Scheme on Supporting Elderly Persons and Carers

  It focuses on supporting all-elderly households and carers. Through visits and outreach by Care Teams, it identifies elderly singletons, doubletons, carers of elderly persons, and carers of persons with disabilities in need, as well as referring them to social welfare service units for follow-up.

- Community Dining Hall

  It provides subsidised meals to the "One-High and Three-Low" group (i.e. individuals with high risk, low income, low support network, and low motivation to seek help). By using the concept of communal dining, it encourages needy groups to proactively step into the community, enabling social welfare organisations to identify their needs and provide appropriate support and service referrals, including emotional counselling, health screenings, and temporary respite services.

- Wellness-on-Wheels

  It focuses on supporting elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and their carers by using outreach mobile service vehicles to proactively enter communities and deliver support services directly to residents' doorsteps. This breaks down geographical and centre-based constraints, thereby precisely addressing the urgent need of caregiving families for convenient and accessible community support and caregiving information.

4. Subject to the project content and needs, the suggested minimum total funding amount to be applied for is HK$1 million, with no upper limit on funding. If the project is successfully matched, the funding amount shall be determined by the funder and the project proponent according to the project needs.

Submission of Information

Applicant organisations must complete and submit the electronic application form on or before the deadline.

The Secretariat may request applicant organisations to provide supplementary information or clarify application content within a specified time limit. Applicant organisations must respond as requested. If applicant organisations fail to submit the required supplementary information on time, the Secretariat may cease processing the application without giving any explanation.

Matching Mechanism

1. The Secretariat will verify whether applicant organisations meet the eligibility criteria and whether the project falls within the Platform's specified target groups and thematic scopes. The approval of a project merely signifies that it may be displayed to potential funders on the Platform, and does not constitute any guarantee of matching.
2. The Platform will not designate matching partners. Whether matching occurs and whether both parties enter into collaboration is entirely a voluntary decision between the funder and the project proponent.

3. The Platform acts as a bridge and facilitator. Before finalising a collaboration agreement, both parties should conduct appropriate due diligence on prospective partners in accordance with their own needs and procedures to ensure that the collaboration aligns with the interests of both parties and meets risk management requirements.
4. If a collaboration is reached through the Platform, both parties must keep a copy of the collaboration agreement on file with the Government.

Financial and Funding Arrangements

1. Funding amounts (if a collaboration is reached) will be paid directly by the funder to the project proponent. Funds will not be transferred through the Platform, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, or the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation. The Government will not provide any funding for the project and will not charge any administrative or other fees.
2. Disbursement of project funds and financial arrangements shall be stipulated by both parties in the collaboration agreement, and all arrangements must comply with Hong Kong laws.
3. All expenses incurred from participating in the Platform, preparing applications, attending matching exchange activities, and implementing projects shall be borne entirely by the organisation. The Government will not subsidise such expenses but will not charge any administrative or other fees.

Data Collection and Project Evaluation

1. Project service data and service user data must be provided as required by the Government for integration into the Government's data platform to optimise social welfare services and policy analysis. The Personal Information Collection Statement prepared by the organisation must cover this arrangement.
2. Organisations must cooperate with project effectiveness evaluations conducted by the Government, as well as submitting relevant information and arranging interviews or site visits as required.

Project Implementation, Reporting, and Inspection

1. Upon successful matching and project initiation, the project proponent must execute the project in accordance with the collaboration agreement signed with the funder, and regularly submit written progress reports and service data as required by the Government.
2. The Government or the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation may conduct project inspections as necessary, and the organisation must cooperate accordingly.
3. Project promotional materials, publications, event backdrops, and facilities must display the logos of the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation and/or the Platform in accordance with Government instructions. The Government reserves the right to use relevant promotional materials for Platform promotion and related purposes.

Important Notes

1. Applicant organisations must guarantee that all information provided in the application form is true, accurate and complete. In the event of making false statements or concealing any important information wilfully, the application will be rendered null and void. If the project has already commenced, the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation may demand its termination. Applicant organisations shall bear all losses and legal liabilities arising therefrom.
2. The Government does not guarantee that all information submitted by applicant organisations is entirely accurate, nor does it guarantee that no issues will arise during the project implementation stage.
3. Any disputes arising from collaboration shall be resolved independently by the two parties involved. The Government will not intervene nor assume any legal liability.
4. The Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation reserves the right to amend the Application Guidelines, or suspend/terminate the first-round matching process of the Platform at any time without making any compensation or indemnification to the applicant organisation.

Enquiries

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Will the Platform approve project funding or disburse grants?

A: No. The Platform serves solely as a matching bridge. Neither the Government nor the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation will provide any funding or charge any administrative or other fees. Whether a project receives funding depends on the choice of the business sector funder and is the result of voluntary negotiation between both parties.

Q2: Can an individual submit a project application?

A: No. Applicants must be welfare organisations or social enterprises that meet the criteria listed under the "Eligibility Criteria" section of the Guidelines.

Q3: Must the proposed funding amount reach HK$1 million?

A: HK$1 million is a suggested lower limit, not a strict requirement. Organisations may formulate a budget based on actual project needs; however, projects requesting low amounts may find it harder to attract consideration from funders.

Q4: When will the results be announced after submitting the application?

A: Results will be notified separately. Information provided in the application form—such as the organisation profile, project overview, target groups, project themes, and proposed funding requirements—may be uploaded to the official website or made available for registered potential funders to browse. Personal contact details will not be disclosed publicly.

Q5: Following a successful match, will funds be transferred to the organisation via the Labour and Welfare Bureau first?

A: No. Fundings are paid directly by the funder to the project proponent. Transfers do not pass through Government departments at any stage.

Q6: Can a single organisation submit more than one project proposal?

A: Yes. An organisation may submit separate applications for multiple different projects. Each project must have an electronic application form filled out independently, and each must separately meet the requirements regarding project themes and target groups.

Q7: What does "Existing Targeted Poverty Alleviation Schemes" in the application refer to?

A: It refers to the poverty alleviation projects listed in the "Overview of Existing Targeted Poverty Alleviation Schemes" section of the Guidelines, which are implemented by the Government or the Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation under a tripartite collaboration model involving the Government, the business sector, and the community. If an application is made to operate such projects, the organisation must comply with the operational requirements and key performance indicators of the relevant scheme and adhere to the corresponding operating manual.

Q8: If matching fails, will the Platform explain the reasons?

A: No. The Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation is not required to provide reasons for unmatched applications or projects not selected by funders. A funder's decision not to select a particular project may be based on commercial or other considerations, and the Platform will not intervene.

Q9: Can application content be modified after the deadline?

A: Modifications are generally not accepted after the deadline, unless the Government proactively invites the organisation to clarify or supplement information, in which case updates must be submitted in the manner specified by the Government.

Q10: Can a project apply for funding from other funds simultaneously?

A: The Platform itself does not prohibit organisations from applying for funding from other funds at the same time. However, this must be truthfully declared to the funder to maintain transparency. Organisations

should also pay attention to the terms and conditions of other funding schemes.

Q11: Are fee-charging projects permitted?

A: Yes, but it is recommended that fee arrangements be clearly explained in the project overview for the funder's evaluation. All fee arrangements must comply with Hong Kong laws and be explicitly stipulated in the collaboration agreement between both parties.

Q12: Under what circumstances will an application be deemed invalid?

A: Circumstances include but not limited to late submission, non-eligibility of the organisation, projects falling outside specified target groups or themes, material false declarations or concealment of information, and failure to submit required supplementary information on time.

Q13: If an application is not approved in the first-round, can the organisation participate in the next round?

A: Yes. If an organisation's application is not successful in the first-round, it may resubmit a compliant project proposal when the Platform opens the next round of applications in the future.