

Home Affairs Bureau invites applications for three funding schemes

The Home Affairs Bureau has invited organisations to apply for funding from the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme, the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme and the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme for 2006-07.

The objectives of the three schemes are to provide financial support to organisations wishing to hold activities to promote equal opportunities in the areas of race, sexual orientation and children's rights.

Any registered organisation or sub-group of a registered organisation may apply. Projects must be non-profit-making and carried out in Hong Kong. They must be completed on or before January 31, 2007.

A spokesperson for the Home Affairs Bureau said the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme and Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme were launched in 1998 and run on an annual basis. "More than \$11 million has been allocated to non-governmental organisations in the past eight years to fund activities dedicated to the promotion of equal opportunities on the grounds of race and sexual orientation," the spokesperson said.

"The community projects funded under the schemes effectively promote public participation and public education on equal opportunities. There has been an enthusiastic response to invitations to apply for funding.

"This year, we have extended our funding areas by launching the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme for the purpose of raising public awareness and understanding of children's rights. We believe that the new funding scheme will draw a keen response too."

Application forms are available from the Home Affairs Bureau and all Public Enquiry Service Centres of the Home Affairs Department. They can also be downloaded from the bureau's website (www.hab.gov.hk).

The deadline for applications is April 21, 2006. For enquiries, please call:

Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme

Tel: 2835 1579

Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme

Tel: 2835 1565

Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme

Tel: 2835 2127

Ends/Thursday, March 30, 2006

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