

Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities

Introduction

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is a statutory body responsible for implementing the anti-discrimination legislation of Hong Kong to promote diversity and equal opportunities for all. The EOC administers the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO), Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO), Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO) and Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) to eliminate discrimination based on sex, marital status, pregnancy, breastfeeding, disability, family status and race. Please refer to the EOC website for a brief introduction on the four ordinances: www.eoc.org.hk.

The EOC is committed to promoting equality of opportunities between men and women, between persons with and without a disability and irrespective of family status and race.

Objectives

The programme aims at encouraging eligible organisations (please see application details) to carry out projects which promote public understanding of equal opportunities. It is hoped that the funded projects would foster anti-discriminatory attitudes and encourage members of the public to put aside their prejudices, and support and apply the principles of equal opportunities in everyday life.

Funded projects should meet at least one of the following objectives:

- promoting the principles and applications of the SDO, the DDO, the FSDO and the RDO
- promoting equal opportunities between women and men, between persons with and without a disability, and irrespective of their family status and race

- eliminating discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, breastfeeding, disability, family status and race
- eliminating sexual harassment, breastfeeding harassment and harassment and vilification on the ground of disability and race

Applicants are encouraged to focus their projects on one/or some of the work priorities under the following focus areas of the EOC Strategic Plan (please click the [link](#) for the plan):

<u>Focus areas</u>	<u>Section of the Plan</u>
Gender discrimination	Section 6
Disability discrimination	Section 7
Family status discrimination	Section 8
Race discrimination	Section 9

Please refer to <http://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/fundp.htm> for the application form and deadline of the funding programme.

Application Details

I. Basic Requirements

1. Non-profit-making organisations which are legally registered, or their committees, are eligible for funding.
2. Fundraising and profit-making activities are not eligible for funding.
3. Projects must be carried out in Hong Kong.

II. Criteria for Funding

1. Approval for applications is based on the following criteria:
 - the application should clearly explain how the planned activities will eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities
 - the planned activities should meet the EOC's objectives of promoting equal opportunities and address the needs of the society
 - the target and number of participants
 - the expenditure and cost-effectiveness of the project
 - the effectiveness of the planned activities can be clearly measured
 - the impact of the activities and the extent of the general public's participation in the activities; and
 - the feasibility of the project
2. Preference will be given to eligible applications from organisations that have never received funding from the EOC.
3. Activities which are of a social, recreational or cultural nature, such as dinner parties, picnics, colouring competitions and carnivals, may not have sustaining effects on promoting the message of equal

opportunities. Generally, such projects will not be funded.

4. Questionnaires and surveys are in general not funded, because the objective of this funding programme is not to conduct research, but to foster community participation.
5. Funds will be granted according to the size, format, and content of the project. The maximum funding limit is \$50,000.

III. Points to Note

1. If the project consists of a number of activities, applicant could apply for funding for selected activities. (For example, an organisation plans to hold a festival for the promotion of equal opportunities including three activities: a seminar, an exhibition and a drama performance. If the seminar will be sponsored by another organisation, the applicant can apply for EOC funding only for the exhibition and drama performance.) For activities funded by other organisations, the EOC will not provide additional funding.
2. Successful applicants should keep close contacts with the EOC, to enable the EOC to keep abreast of the progress of the projects.
3. If there are significant changes to the details of the approved project, the organisation concerned should advise the EOC of the changes in writing. If the EOC is not satisfied with the explanation, it has the authority to rescind the approval and request the organisation concerned to provide a refund to the EOC.
4. The organisation concerned should submit photographs or videos of activities related to the project to the EOC. In addition, the EOC should be provided with one copy of all video productions and two copies of all publications. If the project involves exhibitions, photographs or videos of all exhibits should also be provided to the EOC.

5. Resources funded by the EOC, including videos or publications and their duplications, should not be sold to the public without the authorisation of the EOC. If any organisation violates this requirement, the EOC reserves the right to take appropriate actions.
6. If the organisation concerned is not able to carry out the planned project, the EOC has the right to request a refund from the organisation.
7. Organisations receiving funding from the EOC should publicly acknowledge that they have received financial assistance from the EOC.
8. **The funded organisation shall grant, allow and undertake to assign to the EOC the unrestricted right to inspect, use, reproduce or adapt any material, matter or product made in the course of or consequent upon the sponsorship herein in any form or manner for any lawful purpose or business of the EOC. The funded organisation shall warrant that it has full and proper right, and authority to do so.**

IV. Funding Procedures

1. Written notices will be sent out by mid May (the first batch of applications) or mid November (the second batch of applications) to inform applicants of the results of their applications.
2. Funds should be expended according to the approved itemized budget. (If any of the itemized expenses exceed 10% of the original estimate, the organisation concerned should submit an explanation to the EOC in writing, and request for advance approval from the EOC.)
3. Organisations could request for the provision of half of the funding in advance. If there is unused funding after the project is completed, it should be returned to the EOC with the final report.

4. Organisations should **present materials produced for the project with the final report (including evaluation by the participants and organisers), financial report and all receipts to the EOC within two months after the completion of the project or not later than late March in that financial year**, and the EOC will release the balance of funds after reviewing the reports. Please note that the EOC might disclose on request project information in the final evaluation reports provided by the funded organisations to other organisations or individuals, for them to learn from the experience of the funded organisations.