



Ref. : NDJ/4/110/(24)
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29 August 2024

Dear Officer in-Charge,

**Beat Drugs Fund Invites Applications for
2024 Funding Exercise of the Regular Funding Scheme and
Enrolments in Briefing cum Experience Sharing Sessions**

The Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) is inviting applications for the 2024 Funding Exercise of the BDF Regular Funding Exercise (RFS) between 29 August 2024 and 26 September 2024. To enhance the public's understanding of the details of 2024 RFS and the priority areas, as well as its application procedures and assessment criteria, two briefing sessions will be organised. On the same day after the briefing, two grantees will share their experience in project implementation with the participants.

The BDF was established in 1996 to support various types of projects organised by different sectors of the community to combat drug problems. Under the RFS, organisations can apply for funding to **organise preventive education and publicity programmes for the general public and/or specific groups, provide drug treatment and rehabilitation services for people with drug problems, conduct research on drug abuse problems, or implement a project with combinations of the above.** As we would like to advance anti-drug cause through supporting more worthwhile anti-drug programmes, we encourage different sectors in the community to propose anti-drug projects that meet the objectives and assessment criteria of the BDF.

To ensure that projects funded by the BDF could respond to the latest drug situation, a host of priority areas have been set out by the BDF Association (BDFA) (details on the priority areas are at Annex A) for the 2024 Funding Exercise of the RFS. The Guide to the 2024 Funding Exercise and application form are available on the website of the Narcotics Division, Security Bureau (https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/beat_drug_fund_2024.html).

The coming two briefing sessions will be held **on 3 September (Tuesday) (AM session) and 5 September (Thursday) (PM session)**. Details can be found at Annex B. The two briefing sessions will be conducted mainly in Cantonese. Organisations which require information in English may approach the Secretariat of BDFA direct. Would representatives of interested organisations please send an email to the Secretariat (Email: bdf@sb.gov.hk) and provide the name, title,

organisation name and email address of the participating staff member. Please also indicate which session(s) the staff member(s) concerned would like to attend. Successful applicants will receive an email confirmation nearer the time.

Details about the application for 2024 RFS have also been announced via the following means –

- Webpage of the Narcotics Division
(<http://www.nd.gov.hk/en/beat.htm>)
- Safeguard HK, Security Bureau Mobile App (Google Play :
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hk.gov.sb.app.v2&hl=EN> / Apple App Store :
<https://apps.apple.com/hk/app/id1067703245?l=en>)
- The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Press Releases
(<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202408/29/P2024082700497.htm?fontSize=2>)

You may visit the webpage of the Narcotics Division for information about the funding schemes administered under the BDF (<http://www.nd.gov.hk/en/beat.htm>) or search the details of approved projects (<https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/Searching.php>) under the BDF RFS. In addition, all reports of research projects funded by the BDF have already been uploaded to the webpage of the Narcotics Division (https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/research_reports.html).

For enquiries, please contact the Secretariat (Tel. 2867 2769 or 2867 2286 / Email: bdf@sb.gov.hk).

Yours sincerely,



(Ryan PO)
for Secretary
Beat Drugs Fund Association

**2024 Funding Exercise of
the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF) Regular Funding Scheme (RFS)**

Priority Areas

For 2024 Funding Exercise of the BDF RFS, the Beat Drugs Fund Association will accord priority to projects that address the prevalent drug situation. Projects meeting one or more of the following areas will be accorded priority:

Treatment and Rehabilitation (T&R)

- (a) Projects that comprise targeted treatment and outreaching programmes which take into account the latest demographic characteristics of drug abusers and cater for their varying needs in quitting drugs. They may include abusers of psychotropic substances (especially those of cocaine, “Ice” and cannabis); young adult drug abusers (aged 21 – 35) who could be tertiary students, working adults, professionals or the non-engaged; drug abusers of the non-Chinese-speaking community; drug abusers of older age (aged 65 or above); men who have sex with men with drug abuse problem; “chem fun/sex” participants; drug abusers with family members also at risk of drug abuse or with young children, etc.;
- (b) Projects that promote the involvement of family members of drug abusers in the T&R process and aftercare support services. Relationship between drug abusers/rehabilitees and their family members could be fragile and challenging. On the other hand, family support is pivotal throughout the T&R and recovery process. Involvement of family members of drug abusers throughout and after the T&R process could help identify and engage hidden drug abusers, strengthen the motivation of drug abusers to quit drugs and maintain abstinence, rebuild family relationship, render emotional support to drug abusers/rehabilitees, as well as prevent inter-generational drug abuse patterns;
- (c) Projects that involve and strengthen collaboration among various sectors and disciplines as well as at various levels to help identify and engage drug abusers and help them quit drugs, especially those involving “Ice”, cocaine, cannabis and/or ketamine abuse. Drug abusers of various backgrounds encounter multi-faceted needs straddling health and emotion, work, finance and relationship with

family, etc. Strengthened collaboration involving different key players such as community-based service units, residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres, medical and allied health service units, law enforcement agencies, other welfare service units as well as non-drug social service and community units are encouraged to facilitate concerted efforts for effective delivery of drug treatment;

- (d) Projects that facilitate early identification of drug abusers and intervention through adoption of innovative means and wider use of technology. Amid the evolving social environment and changing lifestyles, there is a need for adoption of innovative means and wider use of technology for identifying, reaching out to and engaging, among others, hidden drug abusers, and also providing them with T&R services and other support, with due regard to the reliability and effectiveness of such tools;
- (e) Projects that strengthen or provide early medical intervention and support to drug abusers, especially those with drug-induced psychiatric and/or severe emotional issues, to manage their withdrawal symptoms and stabilise their mental condition which is essential and complementary to more effective drug treatment. Such medical intervention and support could involve treatment in a hospital/clinical setting or in an outreaching mode;
- (f) Projects that strengthen aftercare services for those who have quitted drugs so as to support them to remain completely abstinent, facilitate their reintegration into society and enhance their employability. Examples include counselling and life planning at post-treatment stage, occupational therapies, vocational training, provision of job placement opportunities, job counselling, mentoring programmes, promoting and facilitating acceptance of drug rehabilitees by the community to provide them with more opportunities to engage in meaningful career and community activities and, where justified, professional intervention, to help drug rehabilitees review their own capabilities, and set realistic life and career goals, etc., with a view to helping them settle in stable employment, enhance their self-recognition and self-esteem, thus empowering them to resist the temptation of drugs and stay abstinent from drugs.

- (g) Projects that provide structured training or platforms for experience sharing on drug-quitting therapeutic approaches among anti-drug social workers, peer counsellors who are drug rehabilitees, medical professionals and related personnel to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for helping psychotropic drug abusers to quit drugs. These projects may also involve other relevant streams of social or medical services to help foster a better understanding of the needs of drug abusers, and share good practices or techniques in helping them quit drugs.

Preventive Education and Publicity

- (h) Projects that mobilise the community to stand against cocaine, cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) products, particularly through raising awareness, providing correct information of harms and rectifying mistaken concepts about the above drugs, publicising the legal consequences of drug trafficking, countering the advocacy for legalising the use of cannabis, addressing the challenges presented by the relaxation on the legal use of cannabis in some foreign jurisdictions and imparting drug refusal skills among members of the public, especially young people, high-risk youths, parents and specific target groups.
- (i) Projects that enhance awareness of the harms of other popular drugs, especially “Ice”, ketamine, lysergide (LSD), and cough medicine, and other new psychoactive substances (e.g. etomidate, street name “space oil”), among members of the public, especially young people, parents and specific target groups, particularly through promoting attitudinal change towards drugs, building a drug-free culture, encouraging early help-seeking and facilitating identification of hidden drug abusers; and awareness of harms of new psychoactive substances.

- (j) Projects that enhance the awareness of families, especially at-risk families (e.g. teenage mothers, parents or family members being ex-drug abusers, and family members being high-risk youth), of drug harms, and strengthen the role and abilities of family members in preventing drug abuse, identifying and seeking help early for drug-abusing family members.
- (k) Projects that engage members of various sectors and relevant stakeholders (e.g. frontline security guards, staff in forwarding business, property management staff, cleaning workers, hostel staff, members of owners' corporations, operators/employers of bars/ Internet cafés or amusement game centres and their employees, as well as workers of professional sectors, such as legal, banking, accounting, etc.) to develop correct understanding of drug harms, identify drug abuse and/ or drug trafficking situations, and seek help from their supervisors, community resources or law enforcement agencies as appropriate.
- (l) Projects that encourage and engage the public to take more proactive actions in spreading anti-drug messages to people around, which could serve as an important pull factor to discourage relevant persons in drug abuse or drug trafficking.
- (m) Projects that promote help-seeking, community acceptance of T&R services and facilities and reintegration of rehabilitees into society.
- (n) Projects that enhance the awareness of the dire consequences of engaging in drug trafficking activities among members of the public, especially young people, socially disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minority groups) and at-risk individuals through online or offline means.

Research

- (o) Research studies on the characteristics of psychotropic substance abuse, particularly on psychotropic substances which have relatively higher or gained prevalence in Hong Kong such as cocaine, “Ice”, cannabis and other emerging drugs to provide more information about the drug harms and to identify suitable treatment methods and develop effective treatment models for application in the Hong Kong’s context.
- (p) Research studies on the behavioural patterns (e.g. reasons for hidden drug abuse, drug-taking subculture, relapse and its prevention, and impacts of inter-generational drug abuse) of different groups of drug abusers (e.g. female drug abusers, pregnant drug abusers, working drug abusers, and drug abusers of diverse races and sexual orientations).
- (q) Studies on identifying and collating good practices or protocols based on the findings of the completed BDF RFS projects with a research element.

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**Beat Drugs Fund Regular Funding Scheme
2024 Funding Exercise**

Briefing cum Experience Sharing Sessions

Date	Time
3 September 2024 (Tuesday)	10:00am – 1:00pm
5 September 2024 (Thursday)	3:00pm – 6:00pm

(The two sessions are mainly conducted in Cantonese. Except the grantees to be invited for experience sharing are different, the contents are identical for the two sessions. Organisations which require materials in English may approach the Beat Drugs Fund Association Secretariat separately.)

Mode of Delivery

The briefing will be delivered in both physical mode in Admiralty and online mode via Zoom. Participants can attend the briefing in either mode.

Location (for participants attending the briefing in person)

Multi-purpose Theatre of Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre
Roof Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices,
66 Queensway, Hong Kong (Admiralty MTR Station - Exit C1)

Content

- Introduction to Regular Funding Scheme¹, including:
 - Background of the Beat Drugs Fund
 - Drug Situation in Hong Kong in 2023

- Introduction to the Application Procedures of the 2024 Funding Exercise², including:
 - Priority areas
 - Assessment criteria and application procedures
 - Methods to assess the effectiveness of projects
 - Practical tips on submission of applications

¹ This is Module 1 of the Beat Drugs Fund Regular Funding Scheme training sessions. More information on the training modules is at <http://www.nd.gov.hk/eng/beat.htm>.

² This is Module 2 of the Beat Drugs Fund Regular Funding Scheme training sessions.

- Experience sharing sessions by grantees³
 - “Project MAP – Meaning-Centered Approach Drug Education and Counselling Program” by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (3 Sep)
 - “Light Up Family – Moving Hidden Substance Abusers from Social Withdrawal towards Recovery” by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (5 Sep)

Inclement Weather Arrangement

In case the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or above / black rainstorm warning signal is still in force at 7:00 am (for AM briefing session) / 12:00 noon (for PM briefing session), the briefing session will be cancelled. Beat Drugs Association will in due course announce the details of fallback session, including its date and enrolment procedures etc.

³ This is Module 8 of the Beat Drugs Fund Regular Funding Scheme training sessions.