The Commission on Poverty (CoP) is a major platform for deliberation on poverty alleviation policies. Together with its two task forces, namely the Community Care Fund Task Force and the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force, it has fully disseminated various areas and offered specific advice and proposals to facilitate the implementation of policies and initiatives on poverty alleviation and support for people’s livelihood and welfare, benefitting different groups in need in society. This booklet sets out the CoP’s major achievements in the past year.

**Structure of the CoP**

- **Membership of the CoP**
  - The membership of the CoP is highly representative, which is conducive to the promotion of tripartite cooperation and collaboration.
  - The 71 non-official members come from different sectors, including the political, business, social welfare, education and social entrepreneurship sectors. For the first time, an ethnic minority member has been appointed to the CoP.

- **Term of the CoP**
  - The third-term CoP commenced on 1 July 2018 and will last until 30 June 2020.
  - The membership of the CoP is highly representative, which is conducive to the promotion of tripartite cooperation and collaboration.

- **Working Family Allowance Scheme**
  - Continued to monitor the implementation of the Working Family Allowance (WFA) Scheme.
  - On 1 April 2018, an enhanced Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) Scheme was introduced and renamed the WFA Scheme, which aims at enhancing the poverty alleviation and prevention effectiveness.
  - As of mid-February 2019, the WFA Scheme has benefited more than 470,000 households (or near 1,400,000 persons, including 66,000 children or young persons, with more than 15,000 households no longer benefiting from LIFA benefits. A total of about 310,000 persons has been disabled.

- **Retirement protection and support for the elderly**
  - Continued to monitor the poverty situation of the elderly, including a new supplementary analysis on the poverty status of ‘income poor, owning property of certain value’ elderly persons in the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2017.
  - Enhanced the healthcare and community care services for the elderly, including the extension of coverage of the Elderly Dental Assistance Programme under the Community Care Fund (CCF) to include elderly persons who are aged 65 or above and receiving the Old Age Living Allowance, and the extension of the Pilot Scheme on Retirement Protection and Retirement Protection System (or near 160,000 persons, including 66,000 children or young persons), with more than 19,500 households no longer benefiting from LIFA benefits. A total of about 310,000 persons has been disabled.

- **Promoting youth upward mobility**
  - Continued to implement successful education projects which promote youth upward mobility, including: "Life Outlook" Mentoring Scheme.
  - Since its implementation in the 2016/17 academic year, more than 11 government departments and non-governmental organisations have participated, offering over 15,000 positions and 1,100 projects for students to participate in. The mentoring schemes have also been extended to Kaleidoscope Plus, Kaleidoscope Plus - seeing the needs of students with special needs.
  - Since its implementation in the 2014/15 academic year, more than 5,400 students from less privileged backgrounds have benefited from the “Future Stars — Upward Mobility Scholarship”, with a total of over $28.6 million raised.
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- **Stronger support for ethnic minorities**
  - Held focus group meetings to invite views from ethnic minorities’ concern groups and service providers about the Government’s setting up of the Steering Committee on Ethnic Minorities Affairs and the work of the committee.
  - Continued to monitor the poverty situation of the ethnic minorities.
  - Advised on arrangements related to the retirement protection system, including HKMC Annuity Plan and the Retirement Protection System (or near 160,000 persons, including 66,000 children or young persons), with more than 19,500 households no longer benefiting from LIFA benefits. A total of about 310,000 persons has been disabled.

- **Continuous increase in government resources for people’s livelihood and welfare**
  - Recurrent government expenditure on social welfare in 2019/20 is estimated to reach $84.3 billion, almost doubled (97%) than that in 2012/13.
  - Recurrent government expenditure on social welfare, 2012/13 - 2019/20

- **Continuous improvement in government resources for people’s livelihood and welfare**
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- **Strategically planning and support for the elderly**
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Support for patients with financial needs

- Extended the following CCF assistance programmes
- Provided subsidy through the CCF for needy primary and secondary students for purchasing mobile
- Followed up on the progress of the implementation of after-school learning and support programmes for
- Followed up on the implementation of the kindergarten education scheme

• Enhanced the means test mechanism for the CCF Medical Assistance Programmes to alleviate
• Continued to subsidise eligible patients to purchase ultra-expensive drugs
• Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures
• The Government has extended the scheme to all 41 District Elderly Community Centres in the territory.

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund

- Since the establishment of the SIE Fund in 2013, over $150 million has been allocated to support
- Through its three priority areas of work, namely innovative programmes, capacity building
- Funding innovative projects
- Supporting capacity building programmes
- Conducting research

Support for persons with disabilities and their carers

- Strengthened a range of support measures for persons with disabilities and their carers, including the extension of the following CCF assistance programmes
- Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled Programme
- Pilot Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities

Support for students

- Followed up on the implementation of the kindergarten education scheme
- Continued to monitor the poverty situation and the
- A total commitment of over $9.5 billion has been made
- Increased the number of beneficiaries fourfold
- More than 140,000 attendances recorded
- The Government’s regular assistance programmes
- 47 assistance programmes have been launched
- a total of around 1.68 million cases have benefited
- 13 assistance programmes have been incorporated into
- a total commitment of over $9.5 billion has been made
- Over 147 innovative projects funded
- More than 1,000 innovation ideas generated

Support for students

- Followed up on the progress of the implementation of after-school learning and support programmes for primary and secondary students from grassroot families under the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged
- Provided subsidy through the CCF for needy primary and secondary students for purchasing computer
computers to facilitate the practice of e-Learning
- Enhanced the Academic Expenses Grant for Students with Special Education Needs and Financial Needs Pursuing Post-Secondary Programmes
- Increasing the Academic Expenses Grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students

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- Followed up on the implementation of the kindergarten education scheme

Community Care Fund

- Implemented the Pilot Scheme on Subsidy to Purchase and Construct
- The Community Care Fund has been incorporated into
- The Government has extended the scheme to all 41 District Elderly Community Centres in the territory.

The way forward

- Explore and implement more initiatives on poverty
- Promote cross-sector and cross-profession collaboration, as
- To provide a comprehensive and cost-effective professional collaboration, as well as public-private partnerships;
to tackle poverty issues
- Continue to monitor the poverty situation and the

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