

Family Council

The Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address: Family and Women-Related Policy Initiatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the progress of family and women-related Policy Address initiatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB).

INTRODUCTION

2. Harmonious families are the foundation of a civil and stable society. The Government is committed to advancing family well-being in Hong Kong. To this end, HYAB has been supporting the work of the Family Council (Council) in promoting a culture of loving families in the community. The Government also fully recognises the significant role of women who contribute immensely as caregivers to families, while serving as a key driving force for the socio-economic development in the community. HYAB has therefore been closely collaborating with the Women's Commission and the society on various measures to empower women and help them realise their potential.

3. To demonstrate the Government's ongoing commitment to the family and women development, the Chief Executive has announced a series of Policy Address initiatives which are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

PROGRESS OF RELEVANT POLICY ADDRESS INITIATIVES

Hong Kong Excellent Family Awards

4. In advancing the healthy development of families, the HYAB and the Council co-organised the Hong Kong Excellent Family Awards in the second quarter of 2025. The event is open to all Hong Kong citizens. With the focus “Fostering Stable Family Relationships for Building Good Family Values and Virtues”, the event promotes the importance of good family values and passing down good family traditions and virtues to the community and the younger generations by recognising families that show mutual respect, care, love and support for one another.

5. The event has attracted about 1 200 families to participate. The Adjudication Panel, comprising community leaders as well as representatives from the HYAB and the Council, met with the shortlisted families to learn more about their stories. After careful assessment and deliberation, they selected 15 winning families. These included 10 recipients of the Excellent Families Award and five recipients of the Passage of Good Family Values and Virtues Award. At the Award Presentation Ceremony held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Auditorium of the Hong Kong Palace Museum on 19 October 2025, the winning families shared their experiences and insights on fostering strong family relationships, promoting positive family culture and values, as well as fine family traditions and virtues with the public. We will disseminate the good family values of the winning families to the wider community through production of videos, TV and radio programmes, etc.

Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education

6. The HYAB and the Council launched the five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education (Scheme) in October 2024 to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education with funding of \$8 million each year. In its first year of implementation (2024-25), the Scheme received over 200 applications, reflecting the importance that society places on family education. After assessment, 12 projects were approved, covering topics of parent-child education, education for new parents, maintenance of family relationships,

support for families with special education needs, ethnic minorities family education, etc. The second round of applications (2025-26) are being invited after consultation with the Council's Sub-committee on Family Support in August 2025. We will continue to implement the Scheme with a view to cultivating the culture of loving families, promoting family education, as well as enhancing the work related to family building, family education and family values.

Family and Women Development Summit

7. The HYAB organised the first Family and Women Development Summit Hong Kong on 9 October 2024 for exchanging views and experiences with different sectors of the community on promoting families and women's development, attracting over 900 representatives to register and participate. The HYAB will organise the second Family and Women Development Summit Hong Kong in early 2026 to discuss with all sectors of the community the measures to continuously promote the development of families and women in Hong Kong. In addition to commemorating the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, the second summit underscores the Government's focus on strengthening family education, upholding fine Chinese family traditions and virtues as well as fostering an enabling environment for families in Hong Kong.

Family and Women Information Portal

8. The HYAB launched the one-stop Family and Women Information Portal (Portal) in October 2024 to pool together information on family education, marriage, women's employment and health, etc. In particular, e-newsletters with articles are uploaded onto the Portal on a regular basis. Topics featured include maintaining marriage, career and family balance, parenting wisdom, women empowerment, etc., with a view to promoting family harmony and women's well-being. The HYAB will keep the Portal under review and enrich its content to meet the various needs of families and women.

Maintenance Mediation Pilot Scheme

9. The HYAB also launched the Maintenance Mediation Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme) in October 2024, through the allocation of \$36 million from the Community Care Fund, to subsidise a non-governmental organisation in providing mediation services to eligible individuals, who are separating or undergoing a divorce. The Pilot Scheme aims to assist the parties in resolving maintenance-related disputes through a more efficient and accessible mediation process. As of September 2025, the Pilot Scheme had handled a total of 213 cases, benefiting around 426 individuals. We will continue to operate the Pilot Scheme to benefit more people in need.

Women Empowerment Fund

10. The Government established the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) in June 2023 to subsidise non-profit-making women's groups and relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for launching appropriate projects that support women's development. Since its inception, the WEF has approved nearly 300 projects, with total funding amount of over \$43 million, to assist women in realising their potential. In light of the enthusiastic response from the community to the WEF and to further advance women's development, the Chief Executive announced in his 2025 Policy Address that the annual funding for the WEF would be increased from \$20 million to \$30 million to enhance support for the work of the WEF.

“She Inspires” Mentorship Programme

11. To promote women's workplace development, the HYAB launched the “She Inspires” Mentorship Programme (Programme) in July 2025, matching local female university students with women leader mentors, and providing relevant training and activities to nurture the future strength that “hold up half the sky”. The Programme has successfully recruited over 50 women leaders as mentors and about 80 mentees. In view of the overwhelming response of the inaugural cohort, the 2025 Policy Address has announced that the mentee quota will be increased by

50% to 120 in the second cohort, enabling more female university students to benefit from the Programme.

ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE FAMILY CORE VALUES

12. Apart from the above initiatives, the HYAB will continue to support the work of the Council to promote family core values, i.e. “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibility” and “Communication and Harmony” and a pro-family culture. In the coming year, the Council will continue to collaborate with different stakeholders to organise programmes and activities relating to the promotion of family core values and a culture of loving families, including promotion through different electronic media, production of family educational videos, supporting youth uniformed groups for organising activities related to families through the “Happy Family Campaign”, and encouraging the wider adoption of more diversified and flexible family-friendly employment practices, etc. Besides, the HYAB will continue to work closely with the Council and assist Government bureaux and departments on the application of family perspectives in the policy formulation process.

ADVICE SOUGHT

13. Members are invited to note and comment on the initiatives set out above.

Home and Youth Affairs Bureau
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