

HKCNP Summary: Hong Kong Five-Year Plan & 2026 Policy Address on Poverty Alleviation, Grassroots Concerns, and Community Development

Hong Kong Five-Year Plan

Community Development	• Strengthen tripartite collaboration among government, business, and the community to foster better youth development. Provide more internship and exchange opportunities for youth to consolidate and enhance their competitiveness in local and international labor markets. Enhance education and employment prospects for ethnic minority youth through internship opportunities, language education, and district support. • Create an environment conducive to women's development, safeguard women's rights and interests, and promote women's physical and mental health. Empower women across different positions, social roles, and life stages, encouraging diverse participation in high-quality social development. • Build additional subsidized independent child care centers, aiming to gradually add 1,800 child care service places—increasing from about 1,500 places in 2025 to about 3,300 places by 2030. • Add 8,000 subsidized long-term care service places for the elderly, increasing from about 69,500 places at the end of 2025 to about 77,500 places by the end of 2030. • Support elderly employment. Provide vocational skills training tailored to the needs of older individuals to improve their employability and meet labor market demand. In line with specialized employment services and schemes for middle-aged and elderly persons, encourage employers to provide on-the-job training and adopt elderly-friendly employment measures to promote employment among healthy seniors.
Primary Healthcare	• Synergistically develop the primary healthcare co-governance network and district health network. Expand service coverage to the elderly, women, and newborns, strengthen cross-disciplinary collaboration, and connect primary healthcare with secondary and tertiary medical services. Strive to basically complete the construction of District Health Centers across all 18 districts within five years, while strengthening community psychological and mental health support.
Grassroots Concerns	• Aim to fundamentally solve the problem of substandard subdivided units in residential buildings by 2030. • In the next five years (2026-27 to 2030-31), together with Light Public Housing, total public housing production will reach approximately 196,000 units. • With the continuous increase in total public housing production, the Composite Wait Time for Public Rental Housing will drop to 4.5 years in 2026-27 and is expected to further decrease to below 4 years in 2030-31. • Balance macro-statistics with micro-care, precisely assisting different vulnerable groups to targetedly address their unique needs through cross-sector collaboration ('government, business, and community').

- Provide precise support for persons with disabilities and their carers. Promote the use of technology to improve the quality of life for frail elderly and persons with disabilities while easing pressure on care staff and carers, including the continued implementation of the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care. On the foundation of existing care services and support systems, actively enhance comprehensive capacity building in residential care supply, rehabilitation services, vocational training/employment, and carer support. Strengthen friendly workplace cultures, encourage and support employment for persons with disabilities and carers, and build an inclusive, cohesive society.

Targeted Poverty Alleviation

- Expand the School-based After-school Care Service Scheme launched by the Commission on Poverty (now known as the 'Targeted Poverty Alleviation Committee') to unleash parental labor capacity and increase family income. Establish additional 'Community Living Rooms' to provide subdivided unit residents with diversified facilities, referrals to social welfare services, improved living standards, expanded interpersonal networks, and an enhanced sense of community belonging.

Northern Metropolis Development

- Facilitate the development of flagship university campuses, encouraging local post-secondary institutions to deepen cooperation with renowned domestic and overseas institutions in research and academic programs. Release campus site land in 2026 for institutional entry.
- Fully leverage transport infrastructure projects as testing grounds for various convenience measures and mechanisms, advancing solutions for student and talent mobility between Guangdong and Hong Kong.
- Provide student hostels and talent apartments, forming an internationalized ecosystem seamlessly connecting teaching, research, living, and employment.
- Through these industrial park developments, promote high-value-added, smart industries, and advanced manufacturing, creating synergy between industry, academia, and research with institutions in the Hung Shui Kiu University Town.
- Begin operations of the wholly government-owned San Tin Technopole Company Limited to develop 210 hectares of innovation and technology land in phases.

2026 Policy Address

Community Development

- A sum of \$300 million will be allocated to set up the "AI for Welfare Lab" (WelfareHK.ai) to identify AI application scenarios in social welfare services, as well as fund the development and pilot implementation of AI solutions. These include analysing the usage of welfare facilities to meet user needs in a more targeted manner. The Government and the business sector will launch the two-year, "30 000 Youth Employment and Internship Programme" to facilitate

youth employment and development, especially for those with limited or no work experience:

1. The Government will mobilise the business sector, including major employer and trade associations, to provide an additional 10 000 full-time jobs lasting six months or more within a two-year period starting from the first quarter of 2027. The jobs will be open to young people newly entering the workforce, with the Government assuming part of the wages, i.e. \$6,000 per month or up to one-third of the monthly salary, for six months.
2. The Government will expand the STEM Internship Scheme and enhance the HYAB Youth Start-up Internship Programme, providing more than 10 000 internship quotas within two years, with each intern receiving a subsidy of no less than \$11,000.

The Government will launch a "one-stop" dedicated webpage, making it easier for young people to access information about the programmes and apply for vacancies.

- Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities (EMs) will:

1. Set up an Elder Harmony Network next year to increase support for EM elderly persons, and strengthen collaboration between the existing EM Care Teams and District Services and Community Care Teams, so that more EM elderly persons can be reached and referred for assistance, as needed.
2. Under the new Success Counsel Programme, outstanding EMs will be arranged to share their experience, and EM youth will be encouraged to join the District Youth Committees through the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth.

- We will adopt learning materials tailored for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students, including the Youth Chinese Test and the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi Chinese Proficiency Test, and provide after-school Chinese language courses to NCS students from Primary One to Secondary Three. We will also provide suitable learning materials for NCS students.

- The Government will strengthen its support for carers:

Increase the amount of allowance under the Scheme on Living Allowance for Carers of Elderly Persons from Low-income Families and the Scheme on Living Allowance for Low-income Carers of Persons with Disabilities by 10% to \$3,300 per month. It is expected to benefit more than 10 000 low-income families.

Enhance the automated operation of the Carer Support Data Platform and expand its coverage.

Optimise the system of the Designated Hotline for Carer Support and enhance its efficacy.

	Increase the manpower of the District Support Centres for PWDs for better early identification of and support for high-risk carers. Regularise the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Elderly Care and the Pilot Scheme on Training for Foreign Domestic Helpers in Care for PWDs, starting from April 2027.
Primary Healthcare	•The Government will improve community healthcare and disease-prevention services: -Upgrade the DHC Expresses in Wan Chai and Kwun Tong to DHCs, starting next year, and continue to upgrade other DHC Expresses. -Implement the phased integration of Elderly Health Centre services from the end of this year. Measures include more than doubling the service capacity for elderly health assessments, reducing the maximum waiting time by two-thirds, and providing similar services for underprivileged elderly through designated HA Family Medicine Clinics (FMCs). -Provide about 220 000 additional HA's Family Medicine Out-patient service quotas each year. -Roll out the Community Pharmacy Programme from the end of this year, with the first phase covering four districts and progressively extending across the city. In parallel, launch the Community Drug Formulary and gradually increase the number of drugs covered. -Starting from next year, provide preventive primary oral healthcare services for specified high-risk groups at designated DHCs/DHC Expresses, and expand the Healthy Teeth Collaboration to offer outreach preventive oral healthcare services for residents of designated residential care homes for persons with disabilities (PWDs).
Grassroots Concerns	• Starting from March next year, the HB will conduct inspections and take enforcement and prosecution action in an orderly manner against illegal letting of SDUs with no registration and no recognition, conducting joint operations with relevant departments to enhance deterrence. Upon the expiry of the grace period at the end of February 2030, the HB will rigorously combat illegal letting of substandard SDUs by owners or operators. • The HB will provide tenants in need with comprehensive, people-oriented support through its District Service Teams in various districts. This includes assisting eligible tenants to apply for traditional PRH and LPH, and flexibly co-ordinating resources such as transitional housing and Hostels for Single Persons, providing tenants in need with temporary shelters or helping them find alternative accommodation in the private market.
Targeted Poverty Alleviation	The Government will:

-Following the launch of the 16 Community Living Rooms, launch two more by the end of this year, expanding the reach to about 10 000 SDU households.

-Establish a Welfare Information Sharing E-platform in phases to integrate the social welfare data of relevant government departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and use AI to enable the early identification of high-risk individuals or families, for timely intervention and targeted response. Data analysis would facilitate targeted support, resource allocation and service deployment in a scientific manner. We will initiate a trial of data integration and analysis, involving selected government departments and NGOs, in the first half of 2027.

-Run the "Community Dining Hall" to optimise the use of Integrated Children and Youth Services Centres during off-peak hours, providing affordable and nutritious meals for elderly persons living alone and in couples, PWDs, carers, children with special needs and their families. This will encourage them to integrate into the community, while giving social welfare organisations the opportunity to identify their needs and offer assistance. We will also launch the "Wellness-on-Wheels" project to provide more convenient service points via mobile service vehicles, for elderly persons and their carers living in aged buildings.

-Spearhead the establishment of a matching platform to institutionalise tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community in supporting the disadvantaged. The platform will enable the matching of resources from family offices and the business sector with community social welfare projects. The first round of matching will be arranged this year. The Commission on Targeted Poverty Alleviation will determine the target groups and themes before inviting NGOs to submit proposals.

-In collaboration with the HKEX, explore providing listed companies with further guidance on the preparation of ESG reports, encouraging them to engage in community and charitable activities, and promoting closer and more effective partnerships between the business sector and social welfare organisations.

-Narrow the digital divide by organising more experiencing and training activities on I&T and AI for children and young people from grassroots families.

Northern Metropolis Development

To dovetail with the development of the NMUT, and raise Hong Kong's scientific research capabilities, the Government will support the capacity expansion and enhancement of post-secondary education:

-Gradually increase the number of UGC-funded research postgraduate places by around 30% from the current level of 7 200 to 9 600 in the 2030/31 academic year, so as to support the vibrant development of basic research in Hong Kong.

-Starting from the 2027/28 academic year, gradually increase the annual quota of the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme from 400 to 550 places by the 2029/30 academic year.

-Starting from the 2027/28 academic year, an additional funding of \$20 million per academic year will be provided to support knowledge transfer, thereby accelerating the transformation of innovative outcomes.

-Starting from the 2029/30 academic year, \$40 million a year will be provided under the Fund for Innovative Technology-in-Education to promote the widespread use of AI and emerging technologies in the higher education sector.

Among the nine NDAs in the NM²⁴, construction works have begun at four of them: Kwu Tung North/Fanling North, Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long South and San Tin Technopole and the Loop. Together, they involve about 800 hectares of land. Site formation and infrastructure works for the fifth NDA (Ngau Tam Mei) will start in the first half of next year, with "spade-ready sites" available progressively, starting at the end of 2028.

As for the remaining four NDAs, we will begin statutory planning and related procedures for Lau Fau Shan NDA this year, and progressively next year for the over 200-hectare Priority Development Area (including part of the university town) of Ta Kwu Ling NDA, Au Tau NDA and part of Ma Tso Lung NDA.

The Government will take forward the Tsing Lung Bridge project at the southern end of Route 11, aiming for commissioning in 2033, to meet north-south transport demands arising from the NM development.

Kwu Tung Station is expected to begin operation next year and become the 100th heavy rail station. As for Hung Shui Kiu Station, an MiC method will be adopted to enhance speed and efficiency, with commissioning of the station targeted for 2030.