Project Name: Evaluation as Learning Tools: Practice Research for the PRH Projects (0052-31)
Organisation: Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Approved Amount: HKD 3,761,000
Target District: All 18 districts in Hong Kong
Target Group: 17 CIIF-funded PRHPs of the 30th and 31st batch and 80 CIIF- funded projects
Project Period: 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2023 (3 years)

Project Summary:

This Project (ELTP) aims at working with the CIIF-funded projects to enhance their social capital outcomes by providing capacity building programmes for the staff members in developing, practicing and learning the best community service models which are constructed based on practice research insights.

ELTP will start with an introduction course open to all CIIF-funded projects, including the Public Rental Housing projects (PRHPs), to present the essence of evaluation as learning in the social capital projects. Major perspectives on planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning of the social capital projects will be introduced, including logic model, single-system design, positivist and realist approach to programme evaluation.

Afterwards, ELTP will work closely with the 17 PRHPs, using research skills as an approach to strengthen social work practice in the community and enhance PRHPs' social capital outcomes. This project will encourage practitioners to do data collection and analyses during their direct practice. Practice models will be subsequently generated and consolidated into a tentative practice model for guiding the ensuing practices.

Programmes include:

1. Mass lectures: to introduce the rationale, goals and principles of practice research.
2. Workshops: on basic skills for documentation and data analysis to encourage project teams to record their practice wisdom and analyses in practice, with specific reference to social capital outcomes of the PRHPs.
3. Ongoing case level analysis: to lead PRHPs to develop research method to meaningfully monitor and evaluate the success of an intervention or of activities in a community, which had received PRHPs' supportive services.
4. Project level analysis: to aggregate and assess the overall effectiveness of PRHPs, particularly to address questions of 'what works', 'what does not work' and 'what factors are impeding or conducive to work'.
5. Model building: to help practitioners construct their practice models based on data collection and analyses of their direct practical experiences in line with the practice research.