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## \$50 billion sought for welfare

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A pressure group yesterday demanded the Government spend at least \$50 billion on welfare in the next 10 years.

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service admitted the figure was a "wild guess" on the sum needed but had firmer ideas on how the money could be used.

It said Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa should set up a \$30 billion Elderly Welfare Fund and use interest and capital from it to build homes and provide services for the elderly.

Interest from a \$20 billion Social Welfare Development Fund would be spent to

create new services such as rehabilitation centres.

Senior project officer Chua Hoi-wai said of the \$50 billion: "It's a wild guess. It came up without using any systematic or statistical method."

Council director Hui Yin-fat said the previous government failed to address the needs of welfare groups.

In his third annual submission to the Government, Mr Hui challenged the commitment of Mr Tung.

"If Tung Chee-hwa wants to show his love and compassion to the community, he should spend a little more money in the welfare sector," he said.